

*Britannia Major*;  
THE *Projects*  
New S C H E M E,  
OR  
E S S A Y,  
FOR  
Discharging the D E B T S,  
Improving the L A N D S, and  
Enlarging the T R A D E, of  
the B R I T I S H Dominions  
IN  
*Europe and America.*

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*Frustra Gallus, Iber, frustra nos belliger Orbis  
Exagitant Britonas; modò nostris adsit Apollo  
Consiliis —*

---

L O N D O N:

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# PREFACE.

**T**HE World has been so long entertain'd with Schemes and Projects of all Kinds, and particularly for paying the grand National Debt, that the Subject may seem to be exhausted, and the Person not well advised, who pretends to mend or improve what has already been presented to the Publick upon this important Occasion.

The Author of the following Essay, after having perused most of the Projects offer'd to the Publick, takes the Liberty to declare, that however he may, in some Particulars, approve some Hints given by many worthy Gentlemen, yet he is humbly of Opinion, that much higher and nobler Views than they mention may be attained, by a wise Oeconomy in discharging the National Debts.

The Aim of all our Projectors hitherto, who have duly regarded our National Credit and Justice, has been to ease the Nation of its Burden, in a very short  
 A 2 time,

*time, either by reducing Interest, or by the Improvement of the old Funds, or providing new ones, &c. The First of which is already become a Hardship upon many of the Publick Creditors, and the Second and Third must be so upon the Subject, too sensible already of the Weight of their present Burden.*

*By the Method we are now pursuing, in lowering Interest, and applying the disengaged Parts of the mortgaged Revenues to the sinking Fund, the Publick Debts may be paid off in about twenty Years ; if we can hope, during that Time, to continue un-embroil'd at home and abroad. Our Neighbours we see plainly, and our domestick Enemies too, know our Difficulties, and treat us accordingly : Their only Hopes to ruin us, are founded in the Ruin of our Publick Credit, and libelling the Administration. And who can be sure, that in so long a Time as twenty Years to come, some Events may not favour the Attempts of our Enemies, and oblige us ( though we now disdain and detest that Injustice ) to make bold with the mortgaged Funds, or compel us to lay on more Weight upon the People.*

*The Publick Safety therefore requires a much quicker Method than we are in at present, and the Honour and Interest of the British Nation, as well as our Wealth and Power may, probably, be more effectually provided for, by discharging a good Part of the National Debts, by proper Equivalents, and this, perhaps, more to the Advantage and real Satisfaction of the Publick Creditors.*

*Our Neighbours, we see, have been forming Societies for Trade at Ostend and Trieste, which might disturb our Commerce, and lower our Markets and Customs ; and Spain is attempting to improve her inland Manufactures. 'Tis high Time then some Care should be taken to settle and secure our Foreign Trade, and our Plantations too, before these and other new Pretenders*  
*become*

## P R E F A C E.

*become our Rivals. On this Head there is room for our making vast Improvements in all Parts of the Globe ; of which many Hints are given in the ensuing Essay.*

*France, under their late King Lewis XIV, began to advance her Commerce ; and the Northern Princes, especially the Dane and Muscovite, are upon the same Design. As our Situation and Maritime Power give us the Advantage in Trade above all our Neighbours, we may well be despis'd abroad, if we lose the present Opportunity of securing the greatest and best Share to our selves. By the Encouragement of the Court of Spain, Columbus, at the End of the 15th Century, Anno 1492, discover'd a new World ; but our Henry VII, slighted his Proposals, and lost us that vast and rich Continent in North and South America, now possess'd by the Spaniards and Portuguese. If we slight the present Opportunity, our Neighbours, who are on all hands setting up for themselves, may forestal, and perhaps, exclude us a second Time.*

*Pope Alexander VI, in 1493, by the Authority of his papal Pride and Arrogance, bestow'd the East Indies on the Portuguese, and the West Indies on the Spaniards ; we Britons, and the French had then no Share in his excessive Liberality, though he was giving away near half the Globe\*. We left those Neighbours to take quiet Possession of the best Parts of the vast Countries aforesaid, which are the richest, and some of the finest Parts of the Globe, amusing our selves in the mean time, with some little Attempts for Discoveries towards the North West*

\* Part of the first Treasure designed for Charles V, fell into the Hands of the French King, who then merrily said, " The Emperor and King of Portugal have divided the New World between them, without allowing me a Share ; but I must desire them to show me Adam's Will to prove their Title.

*and*



*and North East Passages, under the Conduct of Cabot, Frobisher, Sir Francis Drake, Davis, Sir Walter Raleigh, &c. All these (except the last, who discover'd Virginia in 1584,) spent near a Century in searching out Passages through the North East and North West frozen Ocean; astonishing Infatuation! losing by that Wild-goose Chace, the greatest Opportunity that ever this Nation, or any Nation can expect.*

*After Sir Walter's Discovery, some private Attempts follow'd; and to such only we owe all that we possess on the North Continent of America: Countries, indeed, by no means despiseable, but not yet to be equall'd with Mexico, Peru, Chili, Brasil, &c. James and Charles I, were otherwise employ'd, in domestick Struggles and Quarrels; and their Successors have been diverted by other Counsels, from taking the wisest Care of our new Acquisitions; which, nevertheless, are become, especially since the Revolution, of that Importance to our present and future Wealth and Grandeur, that we must be the most abandon'd People in Europe, if we don't, and speedily too, both secure and settle them to the best Advantage.*

*One would think, an undisputed Coast, or Countries fronting the Atlantic, for about two thousand Miles; and stretching Westward beyond any fixed Limits, should be well worth looking after, especially if the Situation, and Native Produce of most of them be duly estimated.*

*The Sketches I have humbly offer'd for improving our Colonies, may, perhaps, amuse and divert some Readers; I heartily wish they may also excite the Attention of our wisest Patriots, that our Posterity may see the British Dominions in North America, as large, populous, and powerful as France and Spain in Europe; an Improvement that is most certainly very possible.*

*The*



*The Author of this Essay is very sensible, that a complete Scheme of this Nature, can't be expected from one Session of Parliament, much less from a single Person, how wise or able soever he may be; he therefore confines himself to a few general Hints, leaving the great Branches of Trade and Government to the wisest and ablest Merchants and Politicians; who, after their best Advices, may find themselves corrected by future Experience, that unerring Guide, in all human Affairs of Weight and Difficulty.*

*To conclude this Introduction, and to excite the Attention of my Countrymen, but especially of all true Patriots, to improve all our large Countries, whereof nine Parts in ten lie at present neglected in the Northern America; I desire them to consider, what great Estates have been gained by Merchants and others from our Plantations in the last Century! How inconsiderable had we now been, and so had Spain and Portugal, without the late great Accessions from America? And how great, very great a Figure both Spain and Portugal may hereafter make among the Powers of Europe, if they improve Brasil and the Spanish West Indies in the present Age, as they have done in the last Century, beyond, perhaps, very much beyond all their own Hopes, and our Imagination! This is far from being an improbable Notion; for those two Crowns are already in Possession of all the Sea Coast of Southern America, within a Trifle: And this is a Continent full as large as all Europe; and besides this vast Tract, the Spaniards are in actual Possession of all the Western Shore of North America, and a very large and well peopled Terra firma, where the King of Spain has some Millions of Subjects. Had that Prince, and the King of Portugal been Masters of our Naval Powers, all America might have been theirs intirely, without a single Competitor: And on  
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*the other hand, had Britain pursued their first Discoveries with the same Prudence and Vigour as Spain and Portugal have ever done, we also might have seiz'd all the Eastern Shore of America, and in time become absolute Lords of the whole, without a Rival,*



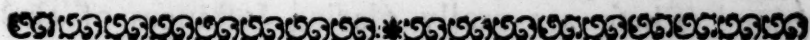
**T H E**






THE  
New S C H E M E,  
O R  
E S S A Y,  
F O R

Discharging the *Debts*, improving the  
*Lands*, and enlarging the *Trade*, of  
the *British* Dominions in *Europe* and  
*America*.



I R E L A N D,

 ALWAYS reckon'd in the remotest  
Antiquity one of the *British* Islands,  
plac'd by the great *Author* of the *Uni-*  
*verse* nearest to *Great Britain*, ca-  
pable by its native Wealth and Si-  
tuation of very great Improve-  
ments; and may by wise Expedients be advanc'd  
to a very high Degree of Wealth and Power; and  
both these so order'd as to be highly beneficial to

both Islands. *Ireland!* the Envy of *France* and *Spain*, and in Conjunction with *Britain*, when both are improv'd to the best Advantage, equal to *France* as now reduc'd in the Number of Acres, and must be superior in Trade and Wealth, and consequently in political Power.

*This noble Island*, much neglected, and unkindly us'd in former Reigns, well deserves our Care and our Kindness too. After we have been Masters of it 559 Years, sure 'tis high Time to put it upon the best footing. Had it been a *Province of France* or *Holland*, in how flourishing a State had it been some Ages ago? But of all civiliz'd Mankind we seem to have been the most negligent of some national Improvements: Mere Necessity, nay general Calamities, can seldom rouse our Attention to the *publick Weal*; witness the Behaviour of our divided Ancestors, who were subject to the *Roman Invaders* about 500 Years, then to the *Saxons* and *Danes* above 500 Years; and lastly, *Britain* has stood divided into two distinct Monarchies above a third 500 Years. Though the Natives are all of the same Language, except a few; and of the same Laws and Religion, yet hardly now united in Affection! These are really glaring Instances of the Weakness of human Wisdom. Are no wise Expedients to be found out at this Time? Won't our Debts and our Dangers too spur our Inventions? Our Debts are known to all our Enemies, and our Dangers too; they only wait for a favourable Juncture abroad, for a *Popish Revolution* is never out of their View.

Many of the old Nobility of the native *Irish* are indeed extinguish'd, but not a few remain descended from their ancient petty Kings, and other great Families, who, though now in low Circumstances, wait for a good Opportunity, well knowing they

they have above a 100000 stanch Friends in *Ireland* at all Times, and perhaps not fewer in *Britain*, amongst *Papists* and *deluded Protestants*. If the *Conclave at Rome*, and the *Cardinal at Paris*, should by some plausible fetch bring *France* and the other *Popish Powers* in *Europe* into a *Catholick League*, humanly speaking the *Emperor* would soon overrun the *foreign Protestants*, and *France* might invade and distress us, divided by our domestick Enemies. Our *Fleets*, though confessedly numerous, and well appointed, could not protect us from so near a *Neighbour* in all Winds and Seasons; this our most skilful Seamen must admit; wherein then must our Security be, if the *Protestant Powers* are divided, and the *Popish* are united? I know none under God, but a firmer Union amongst our selves, and the Discharge of our National Debts.

The first good Step towards both, may be the Union of *Ireland* with *Great Britain* in *Burdens*, *Privileges*, and one Parliament; as for *Religion*, the *Bishops* and *Clergy* (who talk so much of the *Cure of Souls*, and the *Danger of Popery*) 'tis to be hop'd they will take more care of the *poor Natives*, after a most dishonourable Neglect of near 200 Years.

The native *Irish* are *Britons* by Descent, as appears from their *Language*, *Customs*, &c. and the *English* and *Scots* lately settled there (who possess  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the Lands) they are as well qualified as any of their Neighbours, and very desirous of enjoying the *Liberties* and *Privileges* of *Britons* in *Ireland*. Had King *James* or *Charles I.* employed half the Zeal in settling *Ireland*, as was spent in *oppressive Pursuits*, &c. the *dismal Tragedies* of 1640. and 1688. had never been acted, and unspeakable Damages on both sides had been prevented.



The Island, as all other Countries, may be consider'd with regard to the *People* and the *Property*: The Inhabitants are about 12 *Hundred Thousands*, and the *Acres* about 17 *Millions*. The Protestants, always zealous for our Civil Establishment, are about  $\frac{1}{6}$  part; and the *Papists*  $\frac{5}{6}$  part of the whole *Nation*; the latter are implicitly subject to the *Pope* in *Spirituals*, and too well affected to the *P*———*r* in *Temporals*; easily led in former Times by *Spain* and *Rome* into great Disorders; for both made use of the Natives of *Ireland* against Queen *Elizabeth*, in all their Plots during her long Reign, giving constant Alarms, or being in actual Rebellion: Strong Hopes, blind Zeal, and a total Resignation to their Priests, keep 'em in readiness to execute the Commands of their *Spiritual Fathers*. Is a Party so numerous to be always slighted? Out of Charity to them, and Love to our selves, 'tis high Time to take a wise Care of our selves and them; and by a generous Conduct to the Priests and People, make them one with us in *Religion* and *Affection*, before new Troubles are attempted. Mr. *Cambden* in his *Annals* tells us, the reducing *Ireland* in Queen *Elizabeth's* Reign cost 1,198,717*l.* Sterling. Sir *John Burlace* computes the Rebellion 1641. to have cost 400,000 Lives on both sides, and above 22 *Millions* Sterling. Sir *William Petty* reckons the Damage at 37 *Millions*. Mr. *Dean Story*, in his *History* of the late War in *Ireland*, reckons our Expence on that Occasion at above 6,600,000*l.* Are we in a Condition to spare more *Millions* on a like Occasion? Will a wise People, at this Time too, neglect this Affair? Our Debts, and our present Burdens, do loudly demand perfect Union with *Ireland*, which in one Century would vastly improve our Civil Power, and shut up the back Door against foreign Invaders,



at which otherwise the *Pretender* and *Popery* may one Day enter.

The Terms of an Union must be left to our *Legislature*, but with great Submission I hope I may be allow'd humbly to observe, that since there is the same Form of Civil and Ecclesiastical Government in *England* and *Ireland*: This is a great Step towards a Union in *Taxes, Trade, Privileges, and in one Parliament.*

The *Revenue* of *Ireland* at present, perhaps, about 500,000*l.* ⌘ *Ann.* would soon advance; and a *Land Tax, Excise, Customs, and other Duties,* make forthwith a good Addition to our *Sinking Fund,* perhaps 80,000*l.* or 100,000*l.* ⌘ *Annum.* O. Cromwell, by an Ordinance 23 June, 1654. appointed a Tax in *Ireland* upon all Estates Real and Personal of 10,000*l.* ⌘ *Mensem* for two Years, and 14,000*l.* ⌘ *Mensem* afterwards.

Their Representatives for the House of Peers may be four *Archbishops,* and twenty or twenty four *temporal Lords*; and for the thirty two Counties thirty two Knights, four Burgessees for *Dublin*; and for *Cork, Kilkenny, Waterford, Galloway, Drogheda, Londonderry, and Limerick,* two each; and one for all the petty Boroughs in each County; or such other Proportion as the *Revenue of Ireland* shall bear to the *Revenue of Great Britain.* What Blood and Treasure had been sav'd, had a happy Union been settled by Queen *Elizabeth* or King *James I?*

My Readers will excuse me, if I add out of the *English Edition of Cambden,* by the present *Bishop of London,* p. 1414. "The Piety of the Kings  
" of *England* has not in any one Thing been  
" more defective, than in a due Administra-  
" tion in *Ireland,* propagating Religion, modelling  
" the State, and civilizing the Inhabitants; which  
" Things for many Ages have been little regard-  
" ed."

“ed.” One would think an Island so large and near ; the Soil and Pasture so rich ; the Harbors and Rivers so many, and so commodious for Trade, should deserve and challenge our future Care, &c.

The several petty Kingdoms in *Spain*, and little divided Sovereignities in *Britain* and *France*, bred endless Wars and Confusions ; which since their Union and Incorporation have ceased : Their former separate State and Interests being in Time quite worn out of the remembrance of the Body of the People, and all Feuds extinguish’d.

*Wales*, before its Union with *England*, was always an open Enemy or uncertain Friend, but since its Union it has continued a most dutiful part of the *Commonwealth*. Since it submitted to the *English Constitution* the Natives are become intirely ours in Zeal and Affection ; yet the Union of *Wales* was attended with Difficulties, for their Language, Laws, and Customs, were very different from ours ; but *Ireland* has almost the very same with us ; it has for some Ages been used to the *English Government*, and had in some respects a better Title to an Union with us, being now perhaps more than five Times the Weight in the Balance of Wealth and Power than *Wales*, and is still capable of much greater Improvement ; and our Countrymen in *Ireland* having been great Sufferers in many Ages for their firm Adherence to *England*, have some Claim to our regard ; but the *Welch* before the Union were our hereditary Enemies.

In short, a Union in Burdens, Privileges, and Parliament, would have these necessary and most desirable Consequences ;

1. It would give intire Satisfaction and Security to our own Countrymen settled there, and to many who live in *England* but have large Estates in *Ireland*.

2. Re-

2. *Reduce the Natives* by gentle and wise Methods, from Popery and Idleness, to our Religion and Method of Living.

3. *Cut off all the Hopes* of our *popish* Neighbours abroad and at home, from the formidable Numbers of Papists, at present devoted to a *foreign Interest*.

4. *Increase our Trade*, and consequently all the Rents, and also the publick Revenue in Ireland.

5. *Hasten the Discharge* of our great Debts, and enable us to make a much greater Figure in *Christendom*.

For *Ireland* considered in its Natural State, when compared with *England* and *Wales*, is near half in its Dimensions, and the Richness of its Soil; And equal to *Scotland* in Number of Acres, but above double its native Capacity for Improvement.

Whenever *Ireland* therefore is equally improved in all Respects with *England*, it may then produce a Revenue, modestly speaking, near equal to one Third of the Revenue of *England*, Ordinary and Extraordinary; which would be a vast Addition to the Power of the *British Islands* by Sea and Land, in Case of a General War abroad, and lessen our publick Burdens on all ordinary and extraordinary Occasions, about one third Part.

This being admitted, which, I believe, they who have the best Judgment are not unwilling to acknowledge, then, by that Time our National Debts are fully discharged, and *Ireland* fully improved, whenever the publick Occasions, which must be very rare, if it ever happens again, should require the largest Contributions,



	<i>per Ann.</i>
<i>Britain</i> can raise by 4s. on Land,	2,000,000 <i>l.</i>
And, by Duty on Malt,	600,000
By the Funds now mortgaged, about	3,000,000
	<hr/>
	5,600,000 <i>l.</i>
And <i>Ireland</i> at the Lowest $\frac{1}{3}$ }	1,860,000
when improved fully }	<hr/>
	7,460,000
	<hr/>

Which is a *Revenue far above any Prince's in Christendom*, except the *French King's*: But his was *always overstrained*.

And this vast Sum might be rais'd within the Year, when the Funds are disingaged; though 'tis altogether unlikely, that ever our future Circumstances at home or abroad can lead us into so great an Expende.

But if that should possibly happen, we have another Resourse of Wealth and Power in *his Majesty's vast and extensive Dominions on the North Continent of America*, which by a wise Regulation may, in Time, render us superiour vastly to all our Neighbours in *Europe*.

*A LAND SOCIETY, for the Improvement of waste barren Lands, Bog-Lands, and recovering of Loughs and Meers, &c. in Great-Britain and Ireland.*

**I**F a Society were incorporated, with all requisite Privileges, for purchasing, on equitable Terms, of the respective Proprietors, all the waste and Bog-lands, and a Grant from the Crown of all waste Lands, Forests, Chases belonging to the Crown,



Crown, and Loughs and Meers constantly covered by Land-waters, or Inlets of the Sea-water, and of all other Lands never yet improved, &c. it is not to be doubted, but many Parts of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, which now afford no Profit, but are often a *Nuisance*, and at some Times a very great Annoyance to the *adjacent Inhabitants*, might be reduced to good and profitable *Terra firma*, with great Advantage to the Nation in general, and to the Society in particular.

Every body knows, that there are in fact such unwholesome and unprofitable Tracts or Wastes, &c. but the Expence is altogether too great for any private Undertaker; and yet the Undertaking is highly reasonable upon many Accounts. The Quantity of good Lands recoverable is not to be assigned; yet an Estimate may be attempted in the following Manner, but with great Submission to better Judges.

*English Acres.*

The barren or waste Lands, <i>viz.</i> Mountains, Moors, Forests, wet Low-lands, Crown-lands little im- proved, Lands recoverable from large Lakes and Inlets of the Sea, &c. may be fairly computed to be in all <i>Great-Britain</i> , about	}	3,000,000
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The Mountains, Bog-lands, and waste Lands in <i>Ireland</i> , useless to the Owners, and noisome to the Neighbourhood, were computed by the famous Sir <i>William Petty</i> , who surveyed the Country, at about	}	3,000,000
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The *Bogs* in *Ireland* are very many, and very large, over-spreading great Tracts of Land in most Counties; but when drain'd, make excellent rich Meadow Lands, as is well known in many Parts of *Ireland*; yet the Expence and great Scarcity of Money in that Country, hinders most of the Owners from attempting so useful and very profitable an Improvement. The *Gentlemen and Landholders* in *Ireland*, are very sensible how greatly such an Undertaking would advance the Wealth of their Country, and render the Air more serene and wholesome. They have wished for a good Law to set forward so useful and beneficial a Design; but, as I have said, cannot engage in the Expence, without the Concurrence of a *British Purse*. *Bedford Level* was undertaken by a *Joint Stock*.

The Reduction of the *Loughs* or *Lakes* in *Ireland*, to a much narrower Compass, may in some manner prove a Work of Expence and Difficulty; yet when advanced as far as Art and Industry can effect it, will well reward the Undertakers.

Some of these *Loughs* or *Inland Seas* cover many thousand Acres, as *Lough-Neagh*, and *Lough-Earn* do each of them about 100,000 Acres, and the rest, which are very many, though less; especially in the Provinces of *Ulster* and *Connaught*, spread their Waters over a great Quantity of Lands. The two large *Loughs* before-named, may probably very much diminish in their Extent, by removing the great Rocks that hinder the free Passage of their Waters into the Sea, at *Balli Shannon*, and near *Colraine*. 'Tis well known, that the *Shannon* in its Passage from *Lough-Allen* to *Limerick* being very much obstructed by Shallows or Fords, spreads its Waters on both Sides the Current, over large Tracts of Lands. The Navigation of this great  
and

and noble River, is, by those Fords, and a Ledge of Rocks about seven Miles above *Limerick*, entirely obstructed above the Town ; whereas, with no great Expence, it might be made navigable for large Vessels, and many thousand Acres of good Land regain'd.

The mountainous Parts of *North Brittain*, which take up a great Part of that Country, and the vast Moors and Fen-lands in *Northumberland*, *Cumberland*, and *Yorkshire* ; and the mountainous Parts of *Wales*, and of *Tyrone*, *Antrim*, *Londonderry*, *Donnegall*, and other Counties of *Ireland*, will be spacious Fields for Improvement : But to mention all these, with the many large Forests, and other unimprov'd Lands belonging to the Crown and the Subjects, would be endless as well as needless. Upon Supposition that six Millions of Acres may be so improv'd, as to produce one with another 2*s.* per Acre, that making 300,000*l.* per Ann. will be a sufficient Equivalent to the publick Creditors, for six or seven Millions of their Claims on the Government, and add a great Strength to the Revenue.

It appears by an Act passed 23 *Hen.* 8. Cap. 5. that Commissioners of Sewers were appointed and impower'd to clear the Channels of Rivers, and to recover Lands that were overflown, &c. This has met with good Success in many Counties, preserving and also increasing the best of our grazing Lands. What good Effects might follow the Joint-Endeavours of a large Society for improving all our useles Acres in *both Islands*, is not easy to conjecture ; especially if what they recover and improve be free from all Taxes for twenty Years, and some Millions of Acres in our *Northern Plantations* be vested in the Society to compleat their Equivalent, if it be found necessary, with a Par-

liamentary Assurance of all requisite Aids and Assistance for the better Security of an *effectual well establish'd Equivalent*.

In our present Circumstances, when the *National Creditors* begin to be distress'd by the lowering Interest, and want of Ways and Means to employ their Money, annually paying off by *the sinking Fund*, what can be proposed more for their Benefit, than taking some Millions of Acres, when well recover'd and improv'd, at their true Value, in lieu of so much of their Principal Sums, at the Rate of twenty Years Purchase, which may, at the Time of executing the Contract, produce to the *Creditors* at least *4 per Cent.* clear? We never yet had Occasion to look after these large Tracts of useless and unimproved Acres; if now we neglect to recover and improve them, when they may be turned into Estates of *two or three hundred thousand Pounds per Ann.* to be purchased by such *Creditors of the Government*, on the most inviting Terms, such an Opportunity may never happen again to the Government for *advancing the landed Interest*: Nor for the *publick Creditors*, for securing their Principal by unexceptionable Equivalents in *Terra firma* in Great Britain and Ireland, that may produce an annual and perpetual Rent, equal, at least, if not superior to the present Interest they receive for their Money in the Funds; and even that Interest is very likely to be sinking constantly, whilst we have Peace at home and abroad.

There seems to be good Reasons to expect, that the Lands which may be sett out for an Equivalent to the *National Creditors*, may, upon Trial, be very possibly found to contain as many Acres as all the *Seven Provinces*, which may be about *seven Millions*. The *States* have well improved every Foot of their *Terra firma*; and had that  
wise



*wise and industrious Commonwealth*, at the Time they revolted from the *Crown of Spain*, found in their Dominions so much Land neglected and unimproved, every Acre would long since have been fully cultivated, and *farm'd* or *sold* to the *highest Bidder*. 'Tis not improbable, that some of *that State* may be as ready to dispose of their Money in this profitable Adventure, as they have always been in our publick Funds; and well they may, since the publick Interest in *Holland* is no more than 2, or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per Cent.

Of our PLANTATIONS on the North Continent of AMERICA.

WHEN I reflect upon the many Settlements of the *Spaniards* and *Portuguese*, who are at this Time Masters of all the Southern Continent of *America*, besides the large Countries possessed by the *Spaniards* in *North America*; and that all these Settlements are for the most Part in the choicest and richest Countries of the *New World*, possessed and improved by them in the two last Centuries: I cannot but stand amaz'd at their incredible Diligence, and our own unaccountable Negligence, who have for several Reigns sat quiet and contented, whilst we saw them dispatching Fleets and Colonies in such Numbers, till at last they left us, for our Share of the *New World*, what a few private Hands ill us'd and begger'd at home, have occupy'd and improv'd in the last Century, under great Disadvantages and Discouragements, which perhaps are owing to a Jealousy of their growing too powerful.

Had a like Spirit reigned in the Courts of *Lisbon* and *Madrid*, how poor a Figure would they have

have now made in *Christendom*? *London* it self had not been the *London* we now behold it, the *Glory of our Island*, the *Envy and the Capital of Christendom*; nor many of our *Sea Ports* advanced to their present flourishing State, if our *Plantations* too lately settled, and too little encouraged, had not open'd new Sources of Commerce for our great and populous Island.

Our Colonies indeed, if compar'd with the *Spanish* for *Wealth* and *Populousness*, are perhaps but as 1 to 7. We have here and there (I mean upon the Continent) a Town on the Sea Coast, I could soon reckon them; but the *Spanish Settlements* abound with large Cities and Towns of the second and third Rank. *Mexico* perhaps comes short of none in *Europe*, but *London* and *Paris*.

The Towns in our Colonies are all, except *Boston*, *New York*, and *Philadelphia*, very inconsiderable; without Fortifications, and open, in Case of a War, to an Enemy of small Force, who may easily seize *Annapolis* in *Accadie*, and *St. John's* in *Newfoundland*, and break up our other little Settlements, as the *French* actually did in the last Wars.

*Boston*, the Capital of *New England*, may be mastered at any time by seven or eight Battalions, and the *Indians* from *Canada* in the *French Interest*; and then that whole Colony must submit. All the Towns up the *Delawar*, a single Man of War of fifty Guns, or two at the most, may insult and ruin. In the *Bay of Chesapeake*, we have not one Town of two hundred Houses, except *Williamsbourg* lately built, though the Planters are pretty numerous on both Sides.

*North and South Carolina* are greatly expos'd: Their present low Condition is their best Security. In this Situation are we from *Newfoundland* to *South Carolina*,

*Carolina* (a Coast of above 600 Leagues) in Case of a War!

On the other hand, *Spain* has several well fortify'd Sea Ports \*, as the *Havanna*, with three or four Castles, and two hundred and forty Cannon. *Porto bello* and *Carthagena* are as well secur'd, by Fortifications and strong Garrisons. 'Tis true, Admiral *Ponti* became Master of *Carthagena*, 1697, but it was by the Treachery of a *Spaniard*, who had been cruelly whipt by the *Governor*.

The *Spanish* and *Portuguese* Settlements were begun early, about the Year 1500; and since carried on and improv'd by the wisest Methods, under the Authority, and often at the Expence of the *Publick*: 'Tis by this they were rais'd to their present flourishing Condition, insomuch that *Mexico* out-shines most of our *European Courts*. On the other hand, our *Colonies* were begun about an hundred Years after, by Persons forced hence by Oppression and Persecution, who still complain of Restraints and Hardships.

But our Neighbours, *Spain* and *Portugal* are much before-hand with us, in settling and improving some of the finest Parts of *America*, and by the Discovery of their *Gold* and *Silver Mines*. In their vast and numerous Provinces, which are become very rich and populous, an infinite Number of *Clergy*, *Civilians*, *Military Officers*, and Persons of the *first Rank* are settled and employed there, besides Artificers, and People of the lowest Rank, without Number; which together perhaps exceed the Inhabitants of *Old Spain* in all Respects.

We have given Names to Countries on the *North East Continent* of *America*, of great Extent

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\* See *Ovalle*, and the History of the *Buccaneers*.

indeed,

indeed, and capable of vast Improvements ; for our Plantations or Provinces there, reach *about 2000 Miles* upon the Coast. In the more *Northerly, Naval Stores and Timber* for Sea-Service abound ; and Wines in Time, as well as all other Staple Commodities in *Europe*, may be produced in *New York, New Jersey, Pensilvania, Maryland, Virginia, and Carolina*, Countries that highly deserve our Regard, by all the Accounts we daily receive.

To be particular, I begin with *Newfoundland* ; an Island, perhaps, as large as *Ireland*, containing about *16 Millions of Acres*, having many excellent Ports and Bays, claim'd by us about two hundred Years, but neither settled nor peopled but by about three or four hundred Families, employ'd in the Fishery, which perhaps is one of the most profitable Branches of our Trade. The Island is much coveted by our Neighbours. Had the *French* or *Dutch* our Naval Power, no doubt it had been well planted, and secured long since, and all other Nations excluded from its most advantageous Fishery. Besides, that Island would cover and favour the *French* great Settlement on *St. Laurence River*, and during a War, *cut off, in a manner, all Correspondence between Europe and our Northern Colonies*, which a timely wise Precaution may not only prevent, but proper Settlements and Fortifications would in time *exclude all Foreigners*, and in a manner block up the Passages to the *French Colony in Canada* ; all which duly considered, make it very necessary to look after this *valuable Island* : To which there resort annually 6 or 700 Vessels for the Fishery, in which *France* has lately gained great Privileges, by the late Treaty of *Utrecht*, after they had destroy'd all our Settlements, with a small Force sent from *Europe* ; and they



they may do the like again, if we are not, before another War, provided for them.

The *English* and *French* send hither about 400 Vessels yearly, and the clear Profits of the said Fishery are by some reckon'd much above 300,000*l*.

*South West* from *Newfoundland*, lies *Acadie*, or *New Scotland*, a Country of above 20 Millions of Acres, abounds in good Ports, and in some of the best Oak in the World for Shipping, as Baron *La Hontan* assures us, in his Scheme presented to *Lewis XIV*; wherein he propos'd to gain from us the *Iroquese*, with whose Assistance they might soon over-run *New England*, and *New York*. This valuable Province (*Acadie*) was discover'd near two Ages past, and afterwards granted 1621, by *James I.* to Sir *William Alexander*; *Charles I.* gave *Maryland* to the Lord *Baltimore*, both large Countries, to private Subjects! But *New Scotland* has been neglected by *Us* and the *French* too, till very lately. We have there very few Settlements; *Annapolis* is the Chief, a poor small Place, but seated on a large noble Haven. In this Country our Government may dispose of many, perhaps 10 Millions of Acres; and from hence, perhaps, and from our more *Southerly* Provinces, we may be supply'd with all our Naval Stores. This Country, with *Newfoundland*, and the *Isle of Cape Breton*, might be made a good Barrier against all Communication between *France* and *Canada*.

Adjoyning to the *South West* of *Acadie* or *New Scotland*, lies *New England*, the best planted of all our Colonies on the Continent, containing about ninety thousand *Brittish* Inhabitants, many good Towns and Villages, and above 15 Millions of Acres planted and unplanted; of which last the Government may dispose of about perhaps 8 or

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10 Millions.

10 Millions. N.B. I include in this Account *Newhaven Colony*, and *Rhode-Island, Connecticut, &c.*

*South West*, and adjoining to *New England*, lies *New York Province*, including the *two Jerseys*, and *Long Island*. It is a most valuable Province for the *Fineness* of the Climate, *Fertility of the Soil*, and great *Conveniency* of the *Ports*: It may contain about 10 Millions of Acres, whereof hardly two or three are yet planted; so, here is great Room for delightful Settlements, and the Government may dispose of six or seven Millions of Acres, after the Proprietors are bought out, who hold under a Grant of *Charles II*, confirm'd by King *James the Second*.

Adjoining to *New York* (in which I include the *New Jerseys*) to the *West*, lies *Pensilvania*; a fine Country, much improv'd in 50 Years, since a Colony was first settled there. The Soil is rich and healthy, producing excellent Corn and Grapes. This Colony is in a very flourishing Condition, but not a twentieth Part clear'd and inhabited; though the *Europeans* are computed at above 30,000 Souls. The Quantity of Acres unplanted, and to be dispos'd of, (when redeem'd from the Proprietors, Mr. *Pen's* Heirs) may be much above six Millions, great Part of which are as fruitful, and many more fertile than any in *Great Britain*. There are, at present, six Counties in this Colony; and People from *Britain, Ireland, Holland*, and *Germany* continually are resorting thither. If my Information be right, *William Pen's* Children, who are the present Proprietors, have thirty Mannors there, besides other Interests worth a very great Sum, 'tis high time to redeem such a growing Property, and annex the Country to the Crown.

Adjoyning to *Pensilvania*, on the *South*, lies *Maryland*, a flat Country, containing about 10 Millions of Acres, most of which are unplanted; the Soil very rich, the Inhabitants towards thirty thousand, the Counties already laid out eleven, and the Acres unplanted above *six Millions*, which may also be dispos'd of by the Government, (when redeem'd out of the Hands of the Proprietors) and a much greater Number in all these Plantations *Westward*, and to the *North West*, when the Inhabitants are increased. It must be observed here, that most extravagant Grants of Countries, some near as large, if not bigger than *Ireland*, were made by *Charles I.* and *Charles II.* to private Subjects, which ought to be re-united to the Crown, after a reasonable Compensation to the Proprietors, and then dispos'd of by Parliament to new Adventurers, saving the Rights of the present Planters.

On the *South* of *Maryland*, lies *Virginia*. Of this fine Country, we have lately two very good Accounts published by the Rev. Mr. *Jones*, a Clergyman, who has lived there many Years; and Col. *Beverly* a *Native*, and a very sensible Person; who tell us,

“ That there are now laid out 29 Counties,  
 “ which abound in great Plenty of the best Pro-  
 “ visions and Materials for Building : And the  
 “ Soil is so fertile, that *one Bushel of Corn* produces  
 “ sometimes 60 or 80 of a fine large Grain; that  
 “ for Plenty and Fairness of the *Fruit*, no Coun-  
 “ try can compare with *Virginia*, their *Orchards*  
 “ being large and numerous, and the wild Fruits  
 “ abound in all Parts. From *Peaches* they distil  
 “ an excellent Liquor, like Citron Water. *Perry*  
 “ and *Cyder* are made in vast Quantities, and  
 “ *White and Red Wines*, lately by Col. *Beverly*,

“ with good Success ; so that he and others began to plant Vineyards. A *Silk Manufacture* might be established, the *Mulberries* thriving exceedingly ; and *Hops* too, much better than in *England*. The *physical Plants* are numberless. *Pit Coals* appear in many Places near the Surface of the Earth ; and *Iron enough to stock all Europe*, and much surpassing, for Cheapness and Goodness, all that is yet known.

Mr. Jones proposes Terms to make a Provision for all the Poor of *Great Britain* ; for the Support of which, some compute that above 600,000 *l.* may be rais'd yearly. And he concludes his Account with this Observation upon all our Plantations ; “ That the *Extent, Wealth, Goods consum'd, Duties and Customs*, occasioned by our Colonies, are well worthy our most *serious Consideration*, being Countries much larger, ( I add, above twice larger ) than all *his Majesty's Dominions in Europe* ”. Col. Beverly observes, That *Virginia is one of the finest Countries in the World for Improvement, but much prejudic'd by the separate Grant of Maryland*.

The *British Inhabitants* here are above 60,000, but without Towns or Fortifications, and expos'd to the Insults of Pirates and Privateers, who may enter, when they please, the great Bay of *Chesapeake*, and make Depredations without Opposition, in time of War especially ; when they may stop the whole Trade of Export and Import to *Maryland and Virginia*, and distress those noble Plantations in the highest Degree.

A short Canal of about 10 or 12 Miles, I am told, would open a Communication between the *Delawar* and *Chesapeake Bay*, which would be of great Advantage to *Virginia, Maryland, Pensilvania,*



nia, and *New Jersey*, in all Seasons; but especially in bad Weather, and Time of War.

On the *South Side* of *Virginia*, lies *Carolina*, which also is an admirable Country for its Soil, natural Product, great Extent, and most convenient Situation to serve our own Trade; and when Occasion requires, to defend it, and interrupt the *Plate Fleets* and *Returns* of *Spain* out of all the *Bay of Mexico*. The Constitution of this Colony was drawn up by the famous *Mr. Lock*. The Port and Town of *St. Augustino* (once very weakly attack'd by a small Body of *Carolineans*) might easily be master'd by two Battalions, and three or four small Men of War, if not by the Sailors alone; and might soon be made very strong, where a small Squadron might intercept all the *Spanish Trade*, and render the *Gulf of Florida* impracticable to *Spain* in time of War. The *British Inhabitants* here are about 10 or 12000, in great Want of many Regulations to make the Colony safe and flourishing. Nature here is most indulgent to the Planters, as in many other Plantations; but our present Schemes are very unfavourable. 'Till a better offers, which their and our Circumstances loudly demand, I humbly propose the following Sketch, to be consider'd and improv'd by abler Hands, or at least to divert my Readers. The following Hints, though now likely to be thought *Impolitick* and *Chimerical*, may, some of them at least, by Posterity be judg'd of some Consequence, for this important Reason; \* That if we neglect to improve and secure our Settlements on the *North Continent of America*, the *French* will take the first Opportunity to make themselves Masters of all that *Northern Conti-*

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\* See *Neal's History of New England*, p. 423, 466, 467, 499, 546, 559, 560.

ment, as the Spaniards and Portuguese are already of the Southern Continent of America; and so divide this vast New World, and all the Riches of it between them, not leaving us at last the smallest Share\*, which Event will certainly happen, if we don't look about us in time. And then the Ports and Kingdom of France will receive all the Profits and Improvement, which we have enjoy'd for many Years; and London, with our other Ports, will soon return to the low Condition they were in 100 Years ago. With such a vast Addition to the Power of France, how formidable would she grow? And how weak and contemptible should we become, by the Loss of so many noble Provinces? That the late French King and his Council have had such Views, is too apparent to be deny'd, by their encouraging, so much, a new Settlement on the Mississippi, and their populous Settlement on the great River of St. Laurence, to which they have now a free Access by the Isle of Breton, lately given up to them by the Treaty of Utrecht, which was to Britain a very injurious and impolitick Article; but may, however, be retriev'd at some good Opportunity hereafter.

#### HINTS for improving and securing our PLANTATIONS.

1. That the Government redeem all Grants of Provinces; viz. Maryland, Virginia, Pensilvania, &c. upon reasonable Terms allowed to the Grantees, and that must be done very speedily; for the Value of the Grants are rising yearly. Some say Mr. Pen's Heirs may compute their Interest at two hundred thousand Pounds. And that all Lands not planted

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\* See also Sir William Phipps's Reasons offer'd to K. William, 1691, in Neal's History of New England, p. 473.

nor improv'd by a Time certain, be taken into the Hands of the Government, and dispos'd of by Parliament, and not by the Assemblies of the several Colonies, who forestal the new Comers, and raise the Price of Lands unoccupy'd. By such Resumption, and vast Tracts of Land never register'd, our Government may soon have in their Disposal, viz.

	Mill. of Acres.
Millions of Acres, at a very low Computation.	In Newfoundland 8 or 10
	In Acadie, or New Scotland 8 or 10
	In New England 6 or 7
	In New York, and 2 Jerseys 5 or 6
	In Pennsylvania 5 or 6
	In Maryland 4 or 5
	In Virginia 6 or 7
	In Carolina, about 10 or 12
	<hr/> 63 Millions. <hr/>

This Computation is far from taking in all the Lands pass'd by Royal Grants, under the Names above-mentioned; some of which, hereafter, may be twice or three times their present supposed Dimensions. 'Tis sufficient for my Proposal, if the Government shall think fit to dispose of a small Proportion of the Acres above-mentioned, divided into Mannors, of 3000 Acres each Mannor, Plantation Measure.

The wise Republick of Venice, in the great Difficulties of their Finances in the War of Candia, created seventy eight Nobles in their small State, at 100,000 Ducats each Family\*; for which those Families were obliged to present Petitions to the

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\* See Bishop Burnet's Letters, and Atlas Geogr. Italy.

*Senate.* In the small Extent of the Territory of *Venice*, this was a great Increase of their *Nobility*; the *Dominions of that State* not being a sixth Part of the Extent of our *Plantations* above-mention'd; yet this new Sett of Nobles paid for their Titles to the publick Service, about seventeen hundred thousand Pounds *Sterl.*

To encourage the Planting of *Ulster* in *Ireland*, *King James I.* instituted, *Anno 1611*, the new Order of *Baronets*: At first, their Number was two hundred; each of these was oblig'd to maintain thirty Soldiers for three Years, at 8 *d. per Diem.* No Lands were given, but this new Dignity alone cost each of the two hundred first *Baronets*, about 1100 *l.* *Anno 1625*, the same Order was instituted in *Scotland*, for settling a Colony in *Acadie*, or *New Scotland*. And for promoting the Colony in *Virginia*, the Profits of a Lottery drawn in *St. Paul's Church* were to be apply'd. I mention these Particulars, that my Readers may not startle at the following Scheme, which is humbly offer'd to be consider'd, amended, and improv'd by the Government. Our publick Circumstances, and the late Attempts of *France*, *Spain*, and the *Emperor* to encourage Trade, and increase their Power, make it highly necessary for us to look about us in Time, and to make the best of our *Lands* and *Trade* in *Europe* and *America*.

#### THE SCHEME.

Our several Governments on the North Continent of *America*, being too feeble to support themselves in Peace, or in War especially, against a few Privateers, and the necessary Expences of the Civil List, for *Governors*, *Officers Civil and Military*, *Judges*, *Clergy*, and *Magistrates*, requiring



ring new Plans in all the Provinces, 'tis humbly propos'd, that the *whole British Dominions* there be divided into Kingdoms or Provinces, and under the following Names, viz.

1. *Viceroyalty of Carolina.* *Carolina* North and South, to be under one *Vice Roy*, except Part of *Albemarle County* be added to *Virginia*.

2. *Viceroyalty of Virginia.* *Virginia* and *Maryland* united, which have often suffer'd in their separate State, may, for many Reasons, make another *Viceroyalty*, under the Name of *Virginia*, which was the old Name we gave to both, and also to Part of *Pensilvania*; but a Consideration to be allowed Lord *Baltimore* for his Interest in *Maryland*. A Capital City to be rais'd near the Center of these two Provinces.

3. *Viceroyalty of Georgia.* *Pensilvania*, *New Jersey*, and *New York* Governments, to be united into one *Viceroyalty*, under the Name of *Georgia*, in Honour to *his late Majesty, of blessed Memory*, and of our *present gracious Sovereign King George*; and a Capital City to be founded near the Center of the new Province.

4. *Viceroyalty of New England.* *Newhaven*, *Connecticut*, *New Plymouth*, and *Massachusetts Colonies*, with *Rhode Island*, to be united into one *Viceroyalty*, from the *Eastern Bank of Hudson's River*, up (N. W.) to *Champlain Lake*, and N. Eastward to the *River of St. John*, or to any other Boundary more natural: And this will divide all the rest of the Northern Continent, on the South of *St. Laurence River*, into two pretty equal Parts, of which the Settlements above-named to be one *Viceroyalty*, under the common Name of *New England*; and the remaining Country, reaching up to *Cape Gaspe* N. E. and down to the Straits of *Canseaux*, Southward, to be call'd the

5. *Viceroyalty of New Scotland.* *New Scotland*, of which the Capitol, at present, to be *Annapolis*, till the Country is well planted; and then a new Capitol to be built near the Center of the Country.

*Newfoundland* to be put into a better State for improving and securing the *most profitable Fishery* on its Banks; and for the better planting a Country of about 16 Millions of Acres, which now has hardly 6000 Inhabitants.

As *these large Provinces improve*, great Numbers of Officers, Ecclesiastical, Civil, and Military, must be appointed; which will take up all those of each Profession we can spare hence, and many more; and good Provision may be made for all our able poor unemploy'd People. At this Time great Complaints are made for a Supply of Clergy in *Virginia*; and when Affairs are a little better settled in *these Provinces*, a *thousand Divines* will not be sufficient to supply their Occasions: And many of our *half Pay Officers* first advanced in their Ranks, may be settled in *these Provinces*, with proper *Grants of Lands*, which will ease our Expence at home; but it will be proper to continue their *half Pay* for some Years, till they are settled. This was done by the *French* in settling *Canada*.

For the better settling *these large Provinces*, and towards discharging our great publick Debts, we may, in Imitation of the *wise Senate of Venice*, as before hinted, dispose of Honours, and make a *Sale of all the unoccupy'd Lands*, in the foregoing Provinces, on such Terms, and in such Proportions as the Government shall think fit: For Instance, Honours and Lands may be thus disposed of.

In Mannors of 3000 Plantation Acres each, *viz.*

Honours, in these or other Names.	Mannors,	Acres,	Purchase Money.
A Duke,	16	48000	24000 <i>l.</i>
A Marquiss,	14	42000	21000
An Earl,	12	36000	18000
A Viscount,	10	30000	15000
A Baron,	8	24000	12000

If this Proportion take Place, then 'tis humbly suggested, that if the following Creations be settled in the three following Provinces, the Sums raised or discharged from the National Debts, would be as under-mentioned.

	Dukes,	Marquisses,	Earls,	Vifcounts,	Barons.
New England,	1 24000 l.	2 42000 l.	4 72000 l.	8 120000 l.	16 192000 l.
Georgia,	1 24000	2 42000	4 72000	8 120000	16 192000
Virginia,	1 24000	2 42000	4 72000	8 120000	16 192000

3 72000	6 126000	12 216000	24 360000	48 576000
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Or thus:

Total of Nobles, 93.	<div> 3 Dukes, 6 Marquisses, 12 Earls, 24 Vifcounts, 48 Barons, </div>	<div> 72000 l. 126000 216000 360000 576000 </div>	Total of the Purchase Money, 1,356,000 l.
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By the foregoing Scheme, the Number of the Nobility in the *three large Kingdoms or Provinces* above, which are four times as big as *Ireland*, or as the *State of Venice*, are no more than 93; whereas *Ireland* has now above 120 Nobles, and the *Senate at Venice* created 78 *Noble Venetians* at once, who paid for their Honours alone, without having *one Foot of Land* from the State, about one Million seven hundred thousand Pounds; whereas the 93 *Nobles here propos'd*, are to be entitled to *two Millions seven hundred thousand Acres of good Lands*, distributed into *Mannors, &c.* which Lands, when well improved, may produce a very great Revenue to the *Purchasers*, or their Posterity, in *Europe or America*.

Besides the foregoing Scheme for ennobling 93 Families, a second List is humbly propos'd, for *four inferior Classes* of what some have call'd our *Lower Nobility or Gentry*; viz. 'Tis propos'd to have a good Proportion of *Commons* in each *Province*, corresponding with the Degrees here in *England*, to form a *Lower House in each Parliament or Provincial Assembly*, and to preserve a due Correspondence in the main Branches with our *British Constitution*.

		Each 4 Mannors, or Acres.	Purchase Money.	Total Sum.
Baronets	120	12000	6000 <i>l.</i>	720,000 <i>l.</i>
Knights	240	9000	4500	1,800,000
Esquires	480	6000	3000	1,440,000
Gentlemen	1200	3000	1500	1,800,000
	<hr/>			<hr/>
	2040			5,760,000
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To undertake 3 *Provinces* at one Time, would, perhaps, not be so convenient for several Reasons; a *Trial* therefore of *the foregoing*, or a *better Plan*, may be first made in *one of the Provinces*: Suppose it were in *Carolina*, which indeed, upon many Accounts, requires our immediate Care, for its great *Value*, *noble Produce*, *most advantageous Situation*, and yet after so many Years, its *very unprovided and defenceless State and Condition*.

The *Purchase Money* for the Honours and Lands aforesaid, to be sunk in any of the publick Funds; but 4 or 5 *per Cent.* to be allow'd the Purchasers for a few Years, towards Planting, and Settling, &c,

Our *Nobility of Great Britain and Ireland*, to have the *first Offer* of these *Titles and Lands* for their younger Sons and Relations. Next, the principal *Gentry and Merchants*, of which last, such as by Purchase are enobled, shall be obliged to marry a *Lady* out of some *British noble Family*, that the *Issue* may be *noble by Descent as well as Purchase*.

The Emperor *Charles V.*, to encourage the first Settlement in *Paraguay*, sent thither 2200 Persons, and 32 Heirs of noble Families. And *Emanuel and John*, Kings of *Portugal*, sent several large Fleets to make Settlements in *Brazil*.

In 17 *Car. I.*, 2,500,000 Acres of the Rebels Lands in *Ireland*, were sold to *Adventurers*, with a Power to erect 1000, 2000, or 3000 Acres into Mannors. *Dutch Protestants* were admitted after the *English Subscribers*. Cities also, Boroughs, and Companies, had Liberty to subscribe; and *Military Officers* did subscribe their *Debentures*. By this Method, large Sums were raised for the publick Service; many hundreds of Protestant Families settled there, whose Posterity enjoy considerable

Estates, and add a great Strength to the *English Interest in Ireland.*

N. B. Such as shall take a *deserving Lady*, with a small Fortune, to be allowed a Number of Acres extraordinary, in Proportion to her Rank and Quality, *viz.*

	Acres.
A Gentleman's Daughter	400
A Knight's	600
A Baronet's	800
A Baron's	1000
A Viscount's	1200
An Earl's	1400
A Marquis's	1600
A Duke's	2000

Or in any other more reasonable Proportion.

Also the *principal Cities, Towns, and Corporations* in Britain and Ireland, may take Shares, as was done by several Companies of the City of London, in *James the First's* Reign, when Lands in Ireland were bought of the *Crown.*

A new Division of each Province to be made into *Counties* of about 33 *square Miles* each, the *County Town* to be near the Center, and each *County* to be divided into a proper Number of *Hundreds* and *Parishes.* The Lands of the *Nobility* to be all together, or in different Parts, but of the same *County.* And one Nobleman and no more to be seated, at present, in the same *County.* All such *Nobility* to descend by Inheritance to the Heirs Male, and to have Vote as a *distinct Branch* of the *Legislature*, in the *General Assemblies*, or the *Parliaments* of each Province; and *Knights* of each *Shire* to be chosen, and *Burgeses*, &c. to constitute  
a Lower

a *Lower House*, with the same Privileges as in *Great Britain*, excepting *Privilege against Creditors*.

To encourage other Purchasers of a lower Rank who are to be stiled Gentlemen and Freeholders, only, a Sale may be on the following Terms, or in a better Proportion.

1000 Gentlemen in each of the three Provinces,	3000 Gentlemen,	Acres each,	£.	£.
3000 Freeholders in each of the three Provinces,	9000 Freeholders,	1000	for 500	1,500,000
		500	for 150	1,350,000
				<hr/> 2,850,000 <hr/>



All Grants of Lands, but not improv'd, to be made void, as has been said, of which there are too many; and all the unoccupy'd and unimproved Lands, in all the Provinces on the *North* Continent of *America* and *Newfoundland*, to be vested in the Crown, and disposed of at the Pleasure of the Government, according to this or a better Scheme. And all *Batchelors* and *Widowers* that marry *Maids* or *Widows* of small or no Fortune, to be allow'd a proper Quantity of Acres extraordinary, according to the Birth and Merit of the Woman.

All the Lands aforesaid, to be measured out in *Squares*, and divided into *Parishes*, as Convenience of Habitation shall require: Also all Lands to be divided into *Mannors* and *lesser Shares*, for the Conveniency of the Purchasers, and registred in the *General Register Office*, to be erected in each Province, of which a Copy on Parchment to remain with each Purchaser.

And after the Interest ceases to the Purchasers, That a Sum of 60 or 80000 *l. per Ann.* to be paid for some Years, to build Churches and Forts, and to defray the Civil and Military List of each Province, out of the Funds, on which the Principal Sums of the Purchasers were sunk or discharged, or rather out of a moderate Duty on Salt, reviv'd: And these Sums to be sent over, not in Specie, but in the Produce or Manufactures of *Great Britain*.

That a proper Quantity of Copper coin'd, near the *intrinsick Value*, be sent to each Plantation, for present Conveniency.

That 1500 Acres be allowed for a publick School of Languages, Writing, and Accompts; and 1000 Acres for an Alms-house in every County-Town; 300 Acres to be made a Glebe for every

*Minister* of a Parish; 100 Acres more for the *Repairs of the Church*, when built; and 200 Acres more for the Poor of every Parish. And that all the Land-holders before-mentioned, be not liable to any *Tithes* or *Poor Rates*, but only to *voluntary Presents* to the Minister, and *voluntary Charities to the Poor*, and not otherwise. And where *Bishops* are appointed, who are never to have the Charge of above an hundred of the *Parish-Clergy*, 3000 Acres be laid out for such *Bishop*, and his Clergy to be exempt from all Taxes of what Name soever, to him and to the State, except to a general Land-Tax on great Exigencies of the State. Half Pay Officers to be raised in their Degrees, and to have Lands assigned them as *Esquires* or *Gentlemen*, and their Half Pay to continue for five Years after they are landed in *America*.

All *Planters* in any of the three Provinces, who shall have planted and improved their Lands, to be entitled to any of the Ranks of *Commoners* before-mentioned, upon paying to the State of each Province,  $\frac{1}{3}$ <sup>th</sup> Part of their real Income for seven Years successively, or a Composition paid down at once.

The Lands, after a County of about thirty three square Miles is measured, to be divided thus: The *Nobleman* whose Lot shall fall in such County, to chuse first, then the *Baronets*, then *Knights* and *Squires*, and the *Gentlemen* and *Freeholders* by Lot, to prevent Disputes about the Quality of the Lands and Situations.

Where Lands are, upon first View, less fertile and improvable, a reasonable Number of Acres to be added to each Lot or Share, by Commissioners appointed, or another Share to be set out in good Lands. And to promote Tillage and Manufactures,

nufactures, all Purchasers to take with them poor Farmers, Tradesmen, and Parish Children of an Age fit for Labour.

All Bonds, and Sales of Goods to be registered, or to be void; and Sales of Lands also. *The Laws to be all in the English Tongue*, and all Proceedings and Instruments of Law whatever.

A *Council of State* to be erected in each Province, a Council of *Religion*, of *Justice*, of the *Revenue*, for *Military Affairs*, a Council of *Marine* and *Trade*; and the two chief Members of each to be Members of the Council of *State*; which, with two Secretaries, and the *Viceroy*, to be standing Members of the Council of *State*; but others to be added occasionally, out of the Nobility, Gentry, Clergy, and Merchants.

If our past Trade to and with the Plantations has increased our Customs of Export and Import, the City of *London*, and many of our Sea-Ports, in Wealth and Number of Inhabitants, what may be expected from those Plantations well settled and improv'd, on the Foot of this or a better Scheme?

At the first Settling of the *French* in *Canada*, at the Back of our Northern Plantations \*, a considerable Number of Officers, Soldiers, and Women from *France*, were sent at the King's Charge, to whom certain Lands were given, according to their Rank, with a Bull and Cow, a Boar and Sow, and other Things, &c. as Provisions, till they had built and planted. By these and other Encouragements that Colony, in about 80 Years, is become, by their Accounts, more populous than *New England* and *New York* together; though these last have a much better Climate, Soil, and Situation for Sea Trade.

\* See Baron *La Hontan's* Account.

Our Colonies, if neglected, must fall into the Hands of the *French*: But their Colonies in *Canada* will of Course, and without Force become ours, if we make good Settlements all along the Sea Coast of *New England* and *New Scotland*, and take Care to make the Constitution better than theirs in *Canada*. And when this happens, all the numerous and populous Indian Nations on the North and West of the great River of *St. Lawrence*, and their Trade will fall under our Management; and in Time, all *North America*, from *Hudson's Bay*, to the Bay of *Mexico*: In which Extent are vast Tracts of Lands, larger than all *Europe*, besides Riches, perhaps, beyond all Description; for we can hardly fail of *Silver Mines*, if not *Gold*, in so vast a Continent.

And by our planting and fortifying *New Scotland* and *Newfoundland*, the noble and most profitable Fishery on its Banks, may, in Case of a War with *France*, soon become our sole Property; which the *French* or *Dutch* would certainly, in Time of War, have seized long ago, if they had been Masters of our Sea Power. We might soon settle some large Towns in both those Places, with 10 or 20000 idle but able People, of both Sexes, out of *Great Britain*, and with foreign Protestants; and by such Settlements secure those Places against a new War, that we may not be insulted, and the present Settlements ruined, as in the late War with *France*.

Baron *La Hontan*, in his famous Memorial to *Lewis XIV*, affirms, that the Oak in *New Scotland* equals, for Shipping, if it does not exceed any in *Europe*; for which, and other Reasons, he offer'd Expedients to secure that Country to *France*; which will certainly be done, at the first Opportunity, if we are not before-hand with them,  
by



by settling strong Colonies before a War happens. If the *Baron's* Notion of the *Oak* be right, mayn't our Men of War be built at *Annapolis*, or some other good Port near *St. John's River*, at much less Charge than in *Britain*, seeing we find good *Oak* for Shipping growing scarcer, with us, every Year? Our Fleets have aw'd and terrify'd our Neighbours in the *Baltick*, *Mediterranean*, and the *West Indies*. *France*, *Spain*, and *Muscovy*, are in Pain at the flourishing and formidable Condition of our Navy, and no doubt are resolv'd, if possible, to put themselves in a Condition to defend themselves, if not to annoy us. This *Spain* alone can never do, for many Reasons; having neither sufficient *Timber*, nor *Naval Stores* of her own, but is oblig'd, and so is *France*, to fetch them as far as the *North Sea*. But we having given them the Alarm lately, two or three Years successively, both seem resolv'd to provide for their *Marine*, the best they can: And if *Baron La Hontan's* Memorial should take at *Versailles*, that Government will provide in *Acadie* or *New Scotland*, what they at present want in *Europe*, and insult us again in our own Channel, with the *Oak* that we might have us'd in our own Navy.

To prevent these Designs and Attempts of our watchful Neighbour and Rival, we may forthwith give the best Encouragements for building two or three strong Sea-Port Towns in *New Scotland* and *Newfoundland*; but, if possible, without any other Expençe to the Government, besides a Quantity of Arms and Stores.

In Countries so thin of Inhabitants, the Lands may be dispos'd of to *Leaders of Colonies*, who shall take over, and settle at their own Charge, a proper Number of poor Families, now receiving Alms, which Families may be furnished with Necessaries

cessaries at the Expence of the Parishes, whence they come, till they are put on Board. When they arrive in *New Scotland* or *Newfoundland*, under their proper *Leaders*, these to defray their Expence for Provisions and Cloathing, for 3 Years, (a Trifle in so cheap a Country) and to settle them in Villages, Parishes, and Towns, viz. the Families bred to Country Business, in *Villages*, &c. and the Handicraft, and all other Tradesmen in *Towns*.

	Families,		Improvable Acres.
Leaders of Colonies, subsisting and settling as above.	10.	to have a Mannor of	3000
	15.		4500
	20.	2 Mannors each of	3000
	30.	3 Mannors each of	3000

Each Family to hold by Lease, and cultivate 100 Acres of their *Leader*, and to have 100 Acres Freehold for themselves in five Years, or after they shall have clear'd and well improv'd their *Leader's* Lands; but to pay no *Fine* or *Rent* to their *Leader*, nor *Tax* to the *Publick*, for the first seven Years.

And such *Leaders* also to have, according to their Mannors, the perpetual Style and Title of *Gent. Esq; Knight*, and *Baronet*. Besides these, there may be other Privileges granted to the first *Undertakers* or *Leaders of Colonies*, as *Precedency* before all succeeding Adventurers, the best Lands, and finest Situations. And to enable the Adventurers to make good Settlements, all *Corn*, *Grain*, *Cattle*, *Manufactures*, and other Goods sent hence to these two Provinces, for their Consumption, to be *Custom free* for three Years; and any other reasonable and advantageous Privileges to be granted, at the Desire of the Adventurers.

For

For many Reasons, as I have said, it may be most proper to begin with the Province of *Carolina*, being a Country in the finest Climate, the richest Soil, and the best Situation for Trade, into the *Bay of Mexico*, and to all its Islands, and requires our immediate Care for its speedy Improvement; not only for the Benefit to our selves from its growing Trade, but because it may be made a *strong Barrier* against the *Spaniards*, and will always *awe*, and when we see Cause, *restrain* or *bind* their *Galleons* and *Flota's* from returning homeward out of the *Bay*; and in Time, if *Spain* should ever begin an unjust War against us, give us an Opportunity of seizing the City of *Havanna*, and the noble *Island of Cuba*; which would, in Case of a War, be follow'd with an entire Reduction of all the other Islands in the *Bay*, now possessed by the *French* and *Spaniards*. Our vast Advantage from the Situation of *Carolina* is so well known, that, no doubt, the Courts at *Madrid* and *Paris* too, have their Eyes upon it, and will watch us narrowly. Here then we must begin forthwith, that the Coast may be secure against *slight Attacks* at least, and in a short Time, with proper Encouragements, stand firm against the strongest Attempts; and then our Shares would be more secure in the *Galleons*, and the *Indulto's* more moderate.

The same Titles and Shares of *Lands* may be dispos'd of *here*, as in the three Provinces of *Virginia*, *Georgia*, and *New England*, before-mentioned, hereafter at a proper Time.: viz.

Mannors, 16	3000 Acres each,	to 2 Dukes,	48000 Acres each,	48000 £.
14	3000	to 4 Marq.	42000	84000
12	3000	to 8 Earls,	36000	144000
10	3000	to 12 Viscounts,	30000	180000
8	3000	to 16 Barons,	24000	192000

Nobles, 42

Purchase Money, }  
 Half for Honours,  
 Half for the Acres,

648000

Plantations.

And all the Advantages before-named, with other necessary Privileges to be granted to the first Purchasers, to settle a noble Country, that has yet no fixt Bounds to the *West*, and is, at present, above 400 Miles in Length upon the Coast; to which (if it be thought proper) may be added, the following Titles and Shares, viz.

	Acres each,		Acres each,	Acres,	Money.
Mannors, 4	3000	to 50 Baronets,	12000	600000	300000 £.
3	3000	to 100 Knights,	9000	900000	450000
2	3000	to 300 Esquires,	6000	1800000	900000
1	3000	to 400 Gentlemen,	3000	1200000	600000
		<hr/>		<hr/>	
		850	Tot. of Purchase Money & Acres,	4500000	2250000



N. B. The Planters already settled, holding Lands improv'd equal to any of the Number of Acres before-mention'd, to have like Rank, upon a reasonable Consideration paid to the Use of the Publick of *Carolina*.

It can't be reasonably objected, that our National Cash will be drain'd by this Project, because the *principal Sums are propos'd to be sunk in the Publick Debts*, and the Interest thereon to be continued but a few Years; and that Interest may be remitted to the several Colonies, in our Goods and Manufactures, or Copper Coin.

Nor can it be reasonably objected, that we can't well spare such Numbers of People, as is here propos'd; because, if all the whole Project is not to be put in Practice at *one Embarkation*, the Execution of this Scheme, if it took Place, would require some Years. But the Benefit to us, by the vast Increase of Wealth and Power, from this Improvement of our Colonies, would soon over-balance our Want of 20 or 30000 Natives and Foreigners, which amongst Millions of our Inhabitants could hardly be miss'd, but presently be recruited within the Compass of one Year; and most of the Persons carry'd over by the *Adventurers*, being the poorer People, no body, surely, will complain of the Poor-Rates being abated. Did our *able-bodied Poor* rightly understand the great and present Advantages they might obtain, by resorting into this and other Colonies, our Parishes in a few Years, (though over-stockt) would be well eas'd of their Poor. As Things now are, many such Poor in the *West of Scotland*, and in *Ireland* too, have remov'd of late Years; and more will follow, invited by the Accounts of their Friends, and driven by their own Necessities; especially if this or a *better Scheme* be settled, which

I heartily wish some able Hand may soon undertake.

But a most formidable Objection comes now to be consider'd, viz. *The Danger of a Revolt, when these Colonies, for Wealth and Numbers, grow considerable, &c.*

*Answ.* This Consideration never yet, for an Age or two past, hindred our Neighbours the *Dutch* (from whom we are not too wise to learn) from giving the best Encouragement to their *Grand Settlement* on the Isle of *Java*, whereby they are become almost *Masters of the Seas and Trade* in the *East Indies*; and we may of the *West Indies*, if we look about us in Time: Nor have *France*, *Spain*, and *Portugal* been bugbear'd by impolitick *Jealousies*, from pursuing their grand Designs; in which the *Spaniards* and *Portuguese* have succeeded, beyond all our Accompts, as I have hinted before, and are in a fair Way to secure to themselves all *South America*. Our Fears about our slender Settlements, are about *two hundred Years too early* at the Rate we treat them, unless Oppression rouse their Discontents, and those Discontents give Occasion to our Neighbours to take them under their Protection; which may hereafter be in the Power of *France* to do, by the Situation of their two Colonies in *Canada* and *Louisiana*: And if that should ever happen, that Nation will soon secure all *North America* to themselves; of which vast Territory we may become Masters in Time, by some prudent and steady Measures, even without giving Umbrage to the *French Court*, or any other *Neighbouring State*. We are already in Possession of the greater Part of the *Eastern Coast* of all *North America*, what then should hinder us, but our own Indolence, from securing the whole? which the *French* and *Dutch* would certainly do for themselves,

were

were they in our Circumstances, settled as we are, from the North of *Newfoundland*, all along the Coast, for about 2000 Miles, down to the South of *Carolina*.

My great Concern for *securing and improving* the *North Continent of America* to the *British Nation*, has led me into Repetitions, which my Reader's Candour will easily excuse, the vast Importance of the Affair requiring some Matters not obvious to every body, to be frequently mentioned.

I am also well aware that the *whole Scheme*, if it were much better than it is, (and I most heartily wish to see a better) will be disliked by some Politicians, whose standing Maxim it is, That we must keep all our Colonies low, if we will secure their Dependance upon Us: And that 'tis the same Case to us, if they become French, or are independent on us.

To this last Objection, I am asham'd to answer, for the Sake of the Objectors; however, it will be consider'd in my Observations on the first.

1. It must be *an Age or two at least*, before the forwardest of our Colonies will be in a Condition to pretend to an Independency; which Pretence must be founded on their Wealth and Power. How many Ages did *Britain* stand expos'd to every Invader? But I hope our Colonies will make quicker Advances than their Ancestors here.

2. Supposing our Colonies should soon, though that is not to be expected, equal the *Spanish Colonies* in Wealth and Power, we have less Reason, having more Power, and a milder Government, than *Spain*, to fear any such Attempt; to prevent which, we should make it *always* their Interest to be ours. Unkind Usage will provoke all Mankind, but good Usage is the strongest Alliance that can be made between Nations.

3. Their *Religion, Language, Laws and Customs*, will always be Arguments in our Favour. Let the Terms of their Dependency be ever beneficial to themselves, as well as us, *and the People will be ever true Britons. Id firmissimum longe Imperium est, quo Obedientes gaudent.* Liv.

4. Upon a just Consideration of the Situation of the Northern Colonies, 'tis apparent, that Nature has fix'd no Bounds between them; they lie all open to each other, and without a general Confederacy, which is highly improbable and impracticable, between Countries so remote from each other, as *Carolina and New England, &c.* and they could not be secure from their Neighbours, who might disapprove of, and oppose their Measures; and in Time grow jealous of each other. How many Ages was this the Case in *Old Spain*, and in our *Britain* too? Besides the Rivalry that commonly arises between Neighbouring Provinces, a Case so constant in all Times and Places.

5. Are the *Dutch, Spaniards, and Portuguese* govern'd in their Councils by these Apprehensions? yet the *Dutch* Improvements in the *East Indies*, and the Colonies of the *two Latter* in the *West Indies*, vastly exceed the present State of our Colonies. *We are not too wise to learn from our Neighbours.* And what they have been doing for near two Centuries, all the World knows: Well had it been for us if we had follow'd their Measures. Our Plantations had not then been so unguarded and expos'd, nor our Squadrons station'd in the Bay of *Mexico*, but in *Port Royal*, a safe Haven of our own, which wants nothing but our Care to make it an effectual Checque upon all Returns from *New Spain*. But, I hope, it is not yet too late to mend our Conduct, and thereby *make Great Britain much greater in Wealth and Power*, and provide for the  
Cadets



*Cadets of our noble Families and others*, in those vast Countries ; and as it may happen hereafter, for the numerous Posterity of our present Royal Family, who may be willing to accept *Viceroyalties* in our *Western Plantations*, as a Prince of Orange did in *Brasil* ; and by their wise and prudent Conduct there, recommend themselves to the Succession here, whenever Occasion serv'd : For though in the present Condition of those Provinces, this may appear a very remote and unlikely Notion, yet by their *fine Climate, rich Soil, and Product, and convenient Situation for Commerce*, they may hereafter become much more considerable, in the Ballance of Nations, than *Denmark or Sweden* ; which Countries Nature has plac'd in Circumstances incapable of a higher Improvement ; whereas the Provinces I have call'd *Georgia, Virginia, and Carolina* may be rais'd to as high a Pitch of Wealth and Power as any other Countries of the same Dimensions.

In short, *Nature and Providence*, I think, have wonderfully befriended us, if we are not wanting to our selves, by offering to our Consideration an Opportunity for securing to these Nations and Posterity an *inexhaustible Treasure* in these large noble Provinces, to enrich all our *Merchants*, to provide for all our *spare Clergy, Lawyers, and Physicians* ; to raise the *Revenue and Power* of the Crown, beyond all our present Conjectures, or the most sanguine Hopes of our ablest Politicians.

In these Provinces, we can have no Opposition to the *West and North West*, from a few divided barbarous Natives, destitute of all Arts and Arms, and ready ever to become our good Neighbours, when kindly us'd. *Twenty Millions and more would not over-stock the vast Extent, &c.* Their Civil and Ecclesiastical State deserve a speedy Regard, and we can spare several of our *Military Gentlemen* in  
Half

Half Pay, but upon the kindest Terms, who may be very useful against the Natives, and other Enemies, &c.

In our present Want of Silver in all our Markets, it may well deserve to be consider'd, if those vast Tracts of Lands, to which we have only given Names, won't afford us *some Mines of Gold and Silver*; other Metals, as Copper and Iron may be found in great Plenty.

Are the *Spaniards* and *Portuguese* the only *Favourites of Fortune*, and none of the richer Ores to be met with in our Colonies? The *Sanfons* tell us of such in *Florida*, to the *West* of *Carolina*. Would it not be worth while to employ some *skilful German Miner* (for we have none) to search for these subterranean Treasures; especially in the present declining *State of our silver Coin*, before we are reduc'd to the Condition of *Sweden* and *Denmark*, who make all their larger Payments in *Cartloads of Copper*?

Supplies must soon be had either from *our Trade improv'd*, or *Mines discover'd*, or by an *Abatement of our Luxury*, and *Prohibition of foreign Manufactures*, &c. that drain us of *our Coin* and *Bullion*.

To close my Reflections on our Northern Plantations, I would willingly anticipate their future happy State, after they have been well improv'd; and I make no doubt, that in an Age or two, if unrestrain'd, or rather encourag'd by good Constitutions, and kind Expedients, they will have many Towns and royal Harbours, with good Docks, well fortify'd on the Coast; particularly *Port Royal*, and in the *Bay of Chesapeake*, the *Dela-war*, *Perth Amboy*, *Boston*, *Annapolis*, and *St. John's* in *Newfoundland*; small Squadrons of Men of War belonging to each Province, to secure their Trade. Our Manufactures dispos'd of in vast Quantities amongst

mongst all the *inland Nations in North America*; and all that is valuable amongst the Natives returned hither. A *well settled Government and Militia* in every Province, great Numbers of the *younger Branches of our Nobility and Gentry settled in large Estates, Commerce flourishing*, and every Province in the fore-mentioned, or in three larger Divisions, (containing all the Colonies on the Continent) risen to such a Pitch of Wealth and Power, as to deserve the *Style of Kingdoms* much better than some which have long held that Rank and Title in the Northern Parts of *Europe*; and may be added (in Time) to the royal Style of our *British Monarchs*, as *Ireland* was rais'd to the Style of a Kingdom, by King *Henry VIII.*

*A Royal BRITISH FISHERY.*

IT is humbly propos'd, that a Society of the National Creditors, or their Assigns, be vested with most ample Privileges, and to have the *sole Fishery* for Exportation on all the Coasts of *Great Britain and Ireland, and Newfoundland*, and all Persons but the Company, or such as are *licens'd* by them, to be excluded, for sixty Years to come.

*This Company* to make two or three good Settlements in *Newfoundland*, where their Agents being always upon the Spot, may take all, and the earliest Opportunities to cure and load, and to send to the *best Markets in Europe*, and elsewhere, and be before-hand with all our Neighbours.

Mr. *Wood*, a judicious Writer, in his *Survey of Trade*, says, The *Fishery of Newfoundland* is of very great Importance; and that it highly concerns us, to preserve, and also to improve it; in which, above

100 Years since, we employ'd *above 200 Ships*, and furnish'd *all Europe*. He insists much upon our getting this Trade into our own Hands ( which was very practicable after our first Settlement ) magnifying it as more valuable than *Mines of Gold and Silver*. He proposes to exclude all *Foreigners* ; which, I humbly conceive, may be done by a Company vested with special Privileges, and making proper Settlements on the Coasts ; or by a good Regulation of the present Colony, which some think very much wanted : And this in no long time might, without Noise, sink *all Competitors*, and recover this noble Branch of Trade to our Nation again.

It has been computed, that 6 or 700 *Vessels* have been employ'd here in a *fishing* Season ; every one of which, one with another, have freighted 3000 *l.* worth of Cod. Admitting this Computation, this noble Trade produces a gross Sum in Trade of about 2 *Millions* Sterl. besides the Employing 5 or 6000 Seamen, and Thousands of Families in the Necessaries for Shipping, Naval Stores, &c.

'Tis humbly propos'd ( as before ) that *the Proprietors of one or two Millions* of the Publick Debts, or *their Assigns*, may be the only Members of this Company for 60 Years, on *such Terms*, ( *very advantageous* ) as *shall be settled in Parliament*, and improv'd for their Benefit, with new Privileges at all Times, as Circumstances may require.

The *Salmon, Pilchard, and Herring Fisheries* upon the Coast of *Great Britain and Ireland*, will afford vast Opportunities to this Society, who may easily work out the *Dutch and Hamburgers* ; for being at home, they may take all Opportunities of Weather, which the Distance of Foreigners will oblige them to wait for. All Natives to be licens'd by the Society, who take for Exportation,



and the *Dutch* to be under the same Restrictions, at least, to the Company, or to be excluded.

N. B. 'Tis also propos'd, that all Criminals, by the late Acts transportable, be sent to *Newfoundland*, to serve under the *Agents* for the *Royal Fishery* for seven Years, and then to have their Liberty to settle there, but never to return into *Great Britain* or *Ireland*.

In the Reign of *Charles I*, a Fishery was attempted on the *Western Coasts* of *Scotland*, but miscarry'd by the Civil War. *Charles II*, encourag'd several Merchants to renew the Attempt. Mr. *Martin*, in his Account of the *Western Islands*, &c. says, their Fish were the best, and came to the best Market ; but the King withdrawing his Money out of the Stock, the second Attempt failed. *Seamen* abound in all the *Western Islands*, in *Orkney* and the *Shet-lands*, who fare hard, endure all Weathers, despise Dangers, and are dextrous at the Oar : And these Parts abound with *Cod*, *Ling*, *Herrings*, &c. and with People too, who may be employ'd upon as easy Terms as the *Dutch* ; for they live as cheap, and know all the Coast better.

How often has the World been told, by Persons of Judgment in this Affair, of the many Advantages by a *British Fishery* ! Our Neighbours the *Dutch*, make this a most profitable Branch of their Commerce. Their own Coasts affording no such Treasure, they resort yearly, at the Season, with many hundred Vessels, take and cure the Fish upon our Coasts, and sell them at foreign Markets. *King Charles I*, by his Proclamation of *May 10*, 1635, forbid all Foreigners to fish upon the Coasts of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, and *K. Charles II*, demanded 10,000*l.* per *Ann.* of the *Dutch* for this Privilege ; of which we may soon deprive

H

them,

them, because we are at home, and may be earlier, and always at work ; but they being at a Distance must wait Winds and Weather, and stand to our Courtesy for catching and curing the Fish, and securing themselves in foul Weather. How long is this Treasure to be neglected, and taken before our Eyes ! And this is a Neglect not of a few Years, but of some Ages !

——— *Pudet hæc opprobria dici.*

In the 4th Vol. of *Pitts's Atlas*, we are told of the Seasons and Rules observ'd by the *Dutch* in this profitable Trade. Sir *John Borrows*, in a Tract publish'd 1633, acquainted our Ancestors, That *Herrings, Pilchards, Cod, Ling*, and other good Fish may be taken in our Seas, at all Times of the Year : That above 1000 foreign Vessels were employed in this Trade, of which 800 were *Dutch*, by which 15,000 Sailors were maintained, and thrice the Number of People by Land, in Trades relating to the *Fishery*. That the *Dutch* made five Millions yearly by it so long ago, calling ( in a Proclamation, Anno 1624,) this Branch of their Trade a *Golden Mine*.

*N. B.* It ought not to be forgotten, that King *Charles I.* sending out a Fleet, Anno 1635, \* to our North Seas, did oblige the *Dutch* to desist ; who thereupon offer'd, and actually paid the King 30000 *l.* for his Permission that Summer to fish on our Coasts ; and the States were then willing to pay a yearly Tribute for the like Permission. How this great and beneficial Trade may be secur'd to *British Undertakers*, has been hinted already.

\* *History of England.* Vol. III. p. 84.

It ought also to be remembred, that in the Declaration of War against *France* by the late King *William* \*, we are informed, that the *French* took *Licences* from the *English* Governor of *Newfoundland*, to fish in the Seas upon that Coast, and paid a *Tribute* for such *Licence*, as an *Acknowledgment* of the sole Right of the Crown of *England* to that *Island*, &c. After which, their *Encroachments* upon the said *Island*, and the *Trade* and *Fishery* are mentioned: But those very *Encroachments* are now become settled Rights, by the late *Treaty of Utrecht* †; and the *Isle of Breton* intirely quitted to *France*, by the late *Queen Ann's Ministry*; though by an Act, 2 *Will. III. cap. 25.* no *Alien* was to fish or trade on the Coast of *Newfoundland*, or the adjacent *Islands*. By this *Island* the *French* have a free *Passage*, at all Times, to the great *River of St. Lawrence*, and their flourishing and populous *Plantation of Canada*; to which they cannot pass the six *Winter-Months*, by the *Streights of Bell Isle*.

*N. B.* Whenever the *Isle of Breton*, near *New Scotland*, comes into our Hands again, a good Settlement there, and on the opposite *Shore of Acadie*, may in Time intirely cut off all the *Communication of the French with Canada*, and then that *Plantation* must necessarily fall into our Hands, in Case of a War, and we don't neglect that Opportunity to secure it.

\* *N. B.* This Declaration was pen'd by the late Lord *Sommers*.

† See the 13<sup>th</sup> Article of the *Treaty of Utrecht*.

*The AFRICAN COMPANY.*

**T**HE vast Continent of *Africa*, in Circumference between 5 and 6000 Leagues, and much larger than all *Europe*; has vast Sea Coasts, abounding in all Parts with *Bays*, *Havens*, and large Navigable Rivers. This large Share of the habitable Globe presents us (a *trading Nation*) with the greatest Opportunity of opening and settling a Commerce with the Natives all round, from the *Streights of Gibraltar*, to the *Cape of Good Hope*; and hence on the *Eastern Coast*, to the inmost Part of the *Red Sea*.

The Improvements we have made in our Island, in all Manufactures, for Use, Ornament and Pleasure, furnishes us with a Stock of all Kinds, wherein human Invention has hitherto been employed; to begin and cultivate a Correspondence with the Inhabitants on the Coasts, who by fair Usage, and kind Treatment, may, by Degrees, be brought into a State of Friendship and Confidence with us, and become at length, our *Under-Agents and Factors*, not only on the Maritime, but in the Inland Countries, which at present are much unknown to *Europeans*.

By the most and best Discoveries hitherto published, we are assur'd, that *Africa* abounds in the most valuable Riches that Nature has to bestow upon Mankind. If *Gold* has any Charm, this alone may excite our Industry to fetch it from a Coast much nearer than the *South Sea*. We may be assur'd, we cannot miss of that *precious Metal* in many of the Countries where *We*, the *Dutch*, the *Portuguese* and others, have already open'd any Correspondence, at least on the Coast of *Guinea*; whence great Supplies come yearly to furnish our *European Markets*. Several



Several Parliaments, who have consider'd the very great Advantage of this Trade in the foregoing Century, thought it well deserv'd their Encouragement ; but the Improvements yet to be made, are, perhaps, beyond all Conjecture, the chief Obstructions in the last Age that hindered its Progress, were the *Want of a sufficient Stock* to begin, carry on, and support it ; the Employing *unskilful Persons*, without Probity and Experience in the several Factories established on the Coast ; and, perhaps, the *Want of some necessary Privileges* to encourage so beneficial a Trade.

To make so general and so beneficial a Trade round all *Africa*, a successful Undertaking, a careful Choice ought to be made of *Governors, Agents, and Factors*, to be employ'd in all Settlements and Factories, *viz.* Persons of great Probity, Judgment, and the best Experience in Trade in general, and in the particular Trade of the Country where they are to be employ'd, if such can be had, upon any Terms ; and to encourage the Skill, Diligence, and Fidelity of such Officers and Agents, &c. (for such Persons who are possess'd of three such excellent Qualities, much deserve Encouragement) : Very good Salaries and Allowances ought to be established ; and Rewards given upon any extraordinary Services, not only by Preferments to better Stations, but by handsome Gratuities ; for nothing can be more reasonable, than that\* *they who quit their native Country for Years, and it may happen for Life, to serve a great Society, and expose themselves in a strange Country, to certain Danger from the Climate and Inhabitants too, should be secure, at last, of a comfortable Retreat in their native Coun-*

\* Vide *Snoek's Account* of the *Dutch* Method of appointing Officers on the Coast of *Africa*.

try ; after a plentiful Harvest gather'd for the Company, these Agents should partake of the Fruits. What if Prizes were propos'd to such who made very useful Discoveries, for the Improvement of Trade, and settling a new Correspondence with barbarous Nations ? But here I must leave Particulars to the wise Regulations of future Directors.

The Coast of *Africa* being of vast Extent, it will be necessary to make several principal Settlements in the most necessary and advantageous Ports, Bays, Rivers, and Islands near the Coast, which chief Settlements may serve as Nurseries and Retreats to other under and depending Factories : The Expence of these may at first be considerable, yet the Benefit in some Years may surmount all Expectation. Our Plantations in the *West Indies*, the Oldest of about an hundred Years standing, and some of a much later Date, begun by a few private Undertakers, or small Companies, yet now risen to a flourishing State, shew us the great Effects of Diligence and good Conduct. But to animate us in any great Undertakings of this Nature, our Neighbours the Spaniards, Dutch, and Portuguese, should ever be in our Thoughts : The Portuguese alone have advanced their Settlements and Improvements in *Brazil*, vastly beyond all their own first Hopes, and our present Conjectures.

Whoever has gained the best Information concerning the Coast, and Inland Parts of *Africa*, cannot undertake to assign the best and properest Places for settling the first grand Factories ; this must be in Part left to future Experience ; but 'tis pretty obvious, that Settlements, made at the Entrance of the great Rivers, which reach far into the Inland Countries, are the most likely Places to fix and establish the first and principal Factories. And to these principal Settlements, the lesser de-

pending Factories, and the coasting Vessels, may be oblig'd to send and carry all their Merchandises, and to have Recourse in all Concerns that require it.

I will suppose, at present, 'till Experience shall suggest a better Scheme, that 3 or 4 *grand Settlements* should be made in the *West*, and 3 or 4 *more on the East Part of Africa*. By a grand Settlement here, is intended a Fort, in a Place most convenient for Correspondence and Commerce with the Sea-Coast and Inland Parts, like that of *St. George* and *Fort William*, belonging to the *East India Company*; or the *Dutch* Forts on *Java*, at *Malena*, and in many other Parts of the *East Indies*: As, suppose, for Instance, at the following Places.

1. At the Mouth of the *Niger*.
2. On the Coast of *Guinea*.
3. At the Mouth of the Rivers *Zaire*, or *Coanza*.
4. At the Mouth of the *Zambeze*, which may have under it some Factories in *Madagascar*, and on other adjacent Islands, besides those on the *Eastern Coast of Africa*.
5. On the Coast of *Zanguebar*: And also,
6. At the Entrance of the *Red Sea*.

Or in Places found hereafter more commodious for Trade.

These Settlements should be well secur'd against all Attempts, both of the *Natives* and *Europeans*: And some Islands near the Coast may be of very great Service to us, as *Java* is to the *Dutch* in their *Indian Trade*; which is now become a Fund of immense Wealth and Power to the *seven Provinces*.

*Observations on the AFRICAN TRADE.*

If we regard our selves and Posterity, the Improvement of our Trade and Navigation, what incredible Advances might be made by such Settlements, in the Compass of a few Years, no one can easily foretel: But whoever shall well consider the Improvements in our own Trade, in the last Century, by our Settlements on the *Continent* and *Islands of America*, and the prodigious Demand at all Times, for most of our Manufactures in our *own Plantations*; and reflect upon the unspeakable Advantages accruing to the *Dutch* by their noble Settlement on the *Isle of Java*, will easily imagine what may be reasonably expected from some *new Factories*, well established in Places secure, and most commodious for Trade, on all the Coast of *Africa*, and the Neighbouring Islands.

The Produce of *Africa*, as hinted before, and the adjoining very large Island of *Madagascar*, is so valuable, and the Opportunity of vending many of our own low priz'd, yet useful Manufactures, &c amongst *many Nations*, who, at present, are utter Strangers to all Sorts of Improvements, will make our Gain exceed, in Time, all our Hopes; especially if the Accounts we have from the *French, Dutch, Portuguese*, and *our own Traders*, may be rely'd upon; who all agree in the Relations they give us of the *Gold and Silver Mines* in *Benguela*, and other Parts, that are found in many Countries, not remote from the Coast; which alone is enough to *whet our Appetites*, and *excite our Diligence*.



The *Portuguese* have found the great Convenience of their Settlements at \* *Mozambique*, *Mombase*, especially *Melinda* and other Places, which are not only *trading Ports*, but afford *Shelter and Refreshment* to all their Ships passing to and from the *Indies*: An Advantage we greatly need for our *India Trade*, which had been, at least as considerable in all Respects, as that of the *Dutch*, if some Years ago we had made a Settlement at *Madagascar*, like theirs at *Java*; which as it is much nearer to us, so perhaps, might supply us with many of the *Species* of Trade, usually imported from the *Indies*, and particularly with *Gold*; and take off from our Markets Abundance of our smaller and less valuable Commodities. It is not, sure, too late to be wise in this particular.

Our Countrymen settled on the *North Eastern Shore of America*, are sensible of the Benefit they derive from their Commerce with the *Natives*, who are their *Neighbours*: And the *Spaniards* and *Portuguese* (whom upon some Accounts we *wise Folks*, forsooth, despise) reap unspeakable Advantages from our *petty Wares*, purchas'd of us at low Rates, which they barter with the *Natives* of *Brasil*, and all the *Spanish West Indies*. 'Tis high time to consider this with a just Indignation, that may at last rouse our Diligence, to procure all possible Advantages to our selves, by supplying *all Parts of the World* with our own Goods, and all other Things which are acceptable to the rest of Mankind.

Suppose then the Proprietors of one or two Millions in the Lottery Annuities of the *South Sea*

\* These are Places on the *East Side of Africa*, but the Factories of the *Portuguese* on the *West Side*, are too many to be mentioned here.

Company be admitted, with special Privileges, into the present *African Company*, at *Cent. per Cent.* for their Shares; and the present Proprietors of the *African Company* have their Shares, reasonably valued at — *per Cent.* the new Proprietors to be secur'd of their Principal and Interest from the Government, till the Company can clear 6 *per Cent.* from their Trade.

*N. B.* The Privileges to be propos'd by the Company, and confirm'd by Parliament for sixty Years, and new Privileges to be granted from Time to Time, as Circumstances may require.

The Reasons for a separate Company are plain :  
 1. To settle and secure so vast a Trade, which is impossible for private Traders to effect. 2. To make an *Equivalent* for so many of the *National Creditors* as shall accept it, towards discharging the *National Debts*.

The *Dutch* and *Portuguese* have a considerable Trade, and many Factories on the *Gold Coast*, and in other Parts of *Africa*, carrying thither above fifty Species of Merchandize. The *Portuguese* were the first *Europeans* who traded and settled in *Guinea* and other Parts, and have still a good Interest there.

The present Trade to *Africa*, by all *European Nations* together, is not, perhaps, a twentieth Part of what it may be improv'd to; for, at present, the chief Trade is to the *Gold Coast*, where *Britons*, *French*, *Danes*, *Dutch*, and *Portuguese* have *Fort*s and *Factories*; and the *Gold Coast*, where their Trade chiefly lies, is not a twentieth Part of the *Coast of Africa*; and that very Trade does not extend, at present, to an hundredth Part of the remoter *Inland Countries*.

## EAST INDIA COMPANY.

**I**N the Year 1587, Sir *Francis Drake* took near the *Azores*, a large Ship richly laden, from the *Indies*, in which he met with Papers, that made a Discovery of the Trade carry'd on by the *Spaniards* to the *Indies*; to which Trade (*I am asham'd to mention it*) we were then utter Strangers. Afterwards, we began to look after that Trade, which the *Spaniards* and *Portuguese* had settled a full *Century* before. When some Attempts had been made by some private Traders, Queen *Elizabeth* erected an *East India Company*, Anno 1600, for enlarging and improving this great Branch of our Trade. 'Tis humbly propos'd, that the *Directors*, and most able *Members* of the present *Company* be consulted, and have Time to consider what *Privileges* and *Encouragement* they would desire from the *Government*, and for what Time, as an Equivalent for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  or two Millions of the publick Debt. The Plan of the *Dutch East India Company* may be consulted. This Trade is capable of immense Improvements.

'Tis propos'd, that a *new Charter* be granted, with the sole Trade, for 60 Years to come, in all the Parts of *Asia*, from the *Eastern Banks* of the *Red Sea*, to *China* and *Japan*; and to all the *Islands* and *Continents* to the South of *India*, of new Discovery; in short, to all *Asia*, without the *Mediterranean*, with an Exclusion to all private Traders, unless with a Licence from the *Company*.

This *Company* to be allow'd 4 *per Cent.* on all the publick Debts they are entitled to, till they are in a Condition to divide 7 or 8 *per Cent.* on

their Capital, with a reasonable Prospect of Continuance.

When this *new Company* shall have made some new Settlements in *Sumatra*, *Borneo*, *Celebes*, and other more proper Places, as the *Dutch* have done in *Java*, *Malacca*, &c. their Trade and Profits may be vastly extended.

The *Dutch* in the *last Century*, and the Infancy of their Commonwealth, settled their *East and West India Companies*, which last bid fair for the Mastery of all *Brasil*. They sent two strong Squadrons to both the *Indies*, Anno 1603, and continued sending till they had almost conquered all *Brasil*, Anno 1623, the *States* established the *East India Company* with extraordinary Privileges; and the Company is now advanced to that Wealth and Power, as to be *Masters of the East Indian Seas*. They have seized the Streights of *Malacca*, founded a large City and new Commonwealth in *Java*, brought the *Kings of Madagascar*, *Java*, and *Ceylon*, and other Princes to a Submission, after a War with *Cromwell*, and King *Charles II*, who spent more Money upon his *Mistresses*, and in a War with the *Dutch*, than the *States* had done in establishing their famous *India Company*. They have gained such footing in *Ceylon*, that in time they may be *Masters of the whole Island*. If this should happen, they may also, by Degrees, exclude all other *European Traders*. This may be, indeed, prevented, by giving *new Powers and Privileges to our India Company*, and their making strong Settlements in *Madagascar*, *Sumatra*, *Malacca*, *Borneo*, *Formosa*, or such other Places as the best Judges shall determine; which Places may, on all Occasions, supply and support the adjacent Forts and Factories; and upon Occasion, which may frequently offer,



offer, discover and establish new Methods of Commerce ; which in Countries and Islands so vastly extended can never be exhausted. The *Philippine Islands* ( where the King of *Spain* has 250,000 Native *Spaniards* and *Blacks* for his Subjects ) might afford us great Opportunities, if a free Trade were open'd with the *Spaniards*, who, at present, exclude us and the *Dutch* from trading thither.

The *Portuguese*, for above two Ages, have been Masters of *Goa*, a large populous City in the Kingdom of *Visapour* ; and when *Mons. Rennefort* was there, five hundred brass Cannons were mounted on its Walls : This being the principal Mart, and strongest Settlement of the *Portuguese*, which supply'd and supported all their other Settlements and Factories. 'Tis observable, that no *European Nation* trading in the *East Indies*, have neglected to fortify many of their Factories : And the *Dutch* have, at this Time, near as many Forts and Garrisons over all the *Indies*, as all the other *European Nations* put together ; which necessary Security, though it obliges them to a great Expence, yet makes them Masters of large Territories round their Settlements ; so that many petty Princes live under their Protection, and supply their Protectors with whatever their Countries afford.

My Concern for the Improvement of this grand Branch of our National Commerce, will, I hope, excuse me to my Readers, if again I take notice of the Conduct of our Neighbours the *Dutch*, whom, I think, we are not too wise to imitate, at least in some Instances.

To raise a Stock, and lay the Foundation of their *East India Company*, they took in Subscriptions from *Amsterdam*, *Zealand*, *Delft*, *Rotterdam*, *Horn*, &c. Anno 1602, and in seven Years advanced

ced their Capital from *six Millions and an half of Florins*, to *30 Millions*, paid the Proprietors *15 Times the Value of their first Capital*, which has since been at *600 per Cent.* yet they maintain in the *Indies*, as I am inform'd, fifteen thousand regular Troops, and an hundred and fifty Ships at Sea. At *Batavia* they have select Managers, who depend upon the Directors in *Holland*. These Managers can declare Peace and War with Kings and Princes, and have a sufficient Power ready, at all Times, to *protect* their Trade, and *awe* their Neighbours. They are Masters in the Isle of *Java*, and bid fair for possessing the intire Island of *Ceylon*. By these and other Acquisitions, not unlikely to be made hereafter, the whole *Indian Trade*, and all the *European Traders* may be at their Discretion.

In short, the *incredible Industry* of the *Dutch* cannot be sufficiently applauded by all other Nations; and, I fear, will not be imitated in haste by *ours*, who hitherto have been very unenterprising. They are now become a *powerful and formidable State in the Indies*, and have shewn us the Way to settle any Company in all *Barbarous Nations*, to which our Trade is not, at present, extended.



## SOUTH SEA COMPANY.

THIS Body having so immense a Capital, may undertake any great Design. For them an Expence of fifty or an hundred thousand Pounds is inconsiderable. To what a Height is the *Dutch East India Company* risen, from a Subscription of about six hundred thousand Pounds? which is not a twentieth Part of the present *South Sea* Capital. If the *Spaniards* give us a Handle, we have it in our Power to make greater Efforts in the *Southern America*, than the *Dutch* have in the *East Indies*, and to perfect any *Settlements* in a much shorter Time.

King *Charles II*, sent Sir *John Narborough* to attempt the Settling a Trade with the *Natives* in the *South Sea*; but he could not gain the *Natives*, and indeed went too far for the first Step: For if we propose to settle effectually any Trade and Colonies beyond the *Streights of Magellan*, we must first make a strong Settlement on this Side those *Streights*; either upon some of the Islands (of which there are many) that border upon the Coast of the Country of *Patagonia*, or *Terra Magellanica*; or in some safe and convenient Harbour of the Country, between *Rio de la Plata*, and the *Magellanic Streights*. And from such a Mother-Colony, or first Settlement, others should be carry'd on in the *South Sea*, and supply'd and supported from time to time, with all Necessaries. The next Settlement may, perhaps, most safely and conveniently be fixed on the Isle of *Chiloe*, at the Southermost Part of *Chili*, in the *South Sea*. And from this, after it is well secur'd, a Progress might soon be made to greater Designs, viz. to open

open not only a Commerce with all the *South Sea* Coasts, but in time make us *Masters* of great Part of the *Spanish Wealth* in all those Parts: For, with good Management, we might, in a much shorter time than the *Dutch* perfected their powerful Settlements on *Java*, and in many other Parts of the *East Indies*, secure to our selves such a footing on the *East* and *Western* Shores of the *South America*, that the Trade of the *Spaniards*, and of all other Nations that way, would be at our Pleasure in time.

Especially if we, at the same time, re-settle on the North of the *Gulph* of *Darien*, at *New Edinburgh*, which we lately possess'd, but quitted; a noble Port, and of the greatest Consequence, by its Situation in the most convenient Part, and in the very Bosom of the *Bay* of *Mexico*, and capable by Nature and Art of being made impregnable against all Enemies, and all Winds; as may be seen in Dr. *Wallace's* Account, sent to the *Royal Society*. A Colony here may (in its Infancy) be easily supported and supply'd from *Jamaica*, and our other Settlements on the *Caribbee Islands*. Besides, the Situation of *Darien* being just between *Carthagena* and *Porto bello*; to which two Places all the Riches of the *Spanish South Sea Provinces* are brought over Land from *Panama*: The Consequence is better seen than express'd. These two *Spanish* Ports, in time, might drop into our Hands: For, the Returns of the Treasure from the *Spanish Provinces* in the *West Indies*, would become precarious, and indeed impracticable in Time of War. The Government in Queen *Elizabeth's* Reign, had their Eyes upon these Advantages, about 128 Years since \*.

\* See *Camden's Brit.* at the Year 1598.



If the Limits of the *South Sea Grant* are confin'd, from the River *Orenoque*, to the South of the *Equinoctial*, yet their Bounds may be soon enlarged; and in Case of a War with *Spain*, a small Squadron in the Bay of *Mexico*, will soon humble the proud *Spaniard*, and in time secure the Trade and Treasures of *North* and *South America*; which would be of far greater Consequence to us, than the Possession of 10 *Gibraltars*, or 20 *Port Mahons*, Places very expensive in their Maintenance: Whereas, by a good Settlement in the *Gulph of Darien*, &c. a constant and most profitable Trade may be propagated, through all the vast Countries on the *Western Coast of America*, supplying them, at the first hand, with our Manufactures; which now the *Spaniards* take from us at *Cadiz*, &c. and make 50 per Cent. at *Porto bello*, *Carthagena*, *Vera Cruz*, &c.

The *Dutch East India Company*, in order to secure and supply all their other Settlements and Factories on the Coast of *Persia*, *India*, *China*, *Sumatra*, *Borneo*, and the *Molucca Islands*, have wisely established, as has been often hinted, one grand Settlement at *Batavia*, on the Isle of *Java*; from which, upon Occasion, the necessary Land and Sea Forces, and other Necessaries are sent to all their Settlements. In time, our *South Sea Company* may with an Expence less sensible to such a Body, raise her *Batavia's* in the Bay of *Mexico*, on or near *Guiana*, perhaps on the Isle *Trinidad*, which is large and near the Coast, and lies convenient for passing in or out of the Bay of *Mexico*; in the *Orenoque*; in or near the *Great River of the Amazons*; in or near the *Rio de la Plata*; and in or near the Island of *Chiloe*, on the *West Side of South America*.

Two or three such Settlements, like that of *Batavia*, in some of the fore-mentioned Places, would not only secure themselves against all the Attempts

of the *Natives*, but of the *Europeans* too ; support all the lesser contiguous *Factories*, spread and establish a Trade, far and wide, through all the Neighbouring Coasts and Countries ; which Country, though of vast Extent, and containing many populous Nations, which are, at present, utter Strangers to all the Improvements used in *Europe*, in *Building*, *Cloathing*, *Furniture*, *Gardening*, and *Agriculture* : But when they shall become sensible how many Conveniencies in Life we enjoy by our Improvements in *Arts*, *Trades*, and *Manufactures*, they will soon be our Customers for all our *peltry Wares* ; and let us into an *immense Trade*, by Degrees, with many *inland barbarous Nations*, many Millions of Mankind living in an absolute *State of Nature*, naked, destitute, and utterly unacquainted with all the Conveniencies and Accommodations of Life.

'Tis propos'd, that the *Directors of this Body*, and other *able Merchants*, be invited to lay before the Government a *Scheme of Privileges*, for a new Grant to enlarge their Trade, thro' all *South America* ; and also to make Settlements in Parts unoccupy'd by *Europeans*, including the Coasts of the Bay of *Mexico* : And such Grant to be exclusive for 50 or 60 Years, of all other Traders, but those licens'd by the Company ; and for such a valuable Grant, 2 or 3 Millions of the Publick Debt owing to the Company, to be abated and sunk in their Stock, when a reasonable Satisfaction shall accrue to the Company, by their certain Profits for a Continuance, and then such Profits to be accepted for an Equivalent for such Part of the Debt due from the Government, as shall be stipulated, be that Part more or less ; as future Experience shall, after sufficient Trial, truly make appear.



# APPENDIX.

**W**HETHER meer *Chance* and good *Fortune* favoured the *Spaniards* and *Portuguese* in the *Discovery* of their many rich *Mines* in the *West Indies*, or, the *Discovery* was owing to the *Care* and *Expende* of the *respective Courts*, (as many of the *Countries* most certainly were) I cannot well determine; but I am humbly of *Opinion*, that it may be well worth our *Enquiry*, if some *Persons*, *Natives* or *Foreigners*, eminent for their *Skill* and *Experience* in *Mines* and *Minerals*, were employ'd in searching through our large *Countries* in *North America*, for *Gold* and *Silver Mines*.

That those valuable *Metals* may be found to the *West* of *Carolina* and *Virginia*, is very probable; nay, some affirm, that *Silver Ore* has been found in *Virginia*. The *Spaniards* have, for some time, been in *Possession* of many *Silver Mines* in the same *Northern Latitude*. 'Tis not likely, that all

the subterranean Riches of the *New World* should be met with *only* in the Settlements of the *Spaniards* and *Portuguese*. The Mines of Silver in *New Biscay* are much taken notice of by *Spanish Writers*. Dr. Gemelli, in his Travels, says, that *New Mexico* or *New Granada* ( for it has both Names ) has Mines of *Gold* and *Silver* : This Country lies due *West* from *Carolina*, and the *Spaniards* find in it not only *rich Mines*, but *precious Stones*. Is all this Luck on their Part ? or is it not rather Neglect and inexcusable Indolence in us, who have so long postpon'd our Searches after those subterranean Riches ?

Our *Planters* have discover'd several Mines of *Copper* and *Iron* in *Virginia*, *New England*, &c. from some of which they are now raising Ore : And I am inform'd of a *Copper Mine* lately discover'd in *Maryland*, that is exceeding rich ; for upon a Trial lately made in Town, twenty Parts of *Copper Ore*, produced about eight Parts of very fine malleable *Copper*, of as good a Grain, if not of a finer Substance, than the best of *European Coppers*. This Discovery was accidental.

If the *Government* should vest some Persons with proper Powers, for undertaking Discoveries of *Mines* in *North America*, the annual Expence of employing some skilful and well-experienc'd Persons, might, perhaps, be defray'd with less than three thousand Pounds. *Quere*, if proper Encouragements were given to the *Bank of England*, or the *Goldsmiths Company*, or any other Sett of private Undertakers, they may not reasonably expect much better Advantage than in our publick Lotteries, or than the Adventurers in many Societies now subsisting,



A Trial of three or four Years, would require a very small Expence, if compar'd with the immense Profits that may not improbably recompense so commendable an Undertaking.

What makes it yet more likely, that *Gold* and *Silver* Mines may be probably found in *Carolina* and *Virginia*, is, that the *Sansons*, from the Reports of their Countrymen, who have been settled in *Florida*, expressly affirm that they actually meet with such Mines; but, perhaps, being a *new Settlement*, and the *Mines* very remote, and for want of *skilful Miners* and *Assistance* from the *Publick*, I don't find they have yet begun to raise any Ore, unless it be done by *Stealth*, to conceal it from the Notice of the Government, as two poor *Spaniards* continued to do, for some time, who first discover'd the famous Mines at *Potosi*.

The *Revenue* of the late *French King*, which he rais'd *ad libitum*, being very great, made him formidable amongst his Neighbours. What might not another Prince of his enterprizing Genius undertake, if once he comes to have good Supplies of Gold and Silver from *Florida*? In that Case, he might very easily drive us out of all our large Countries in *North America*, and bid fairer than ever for an *Universal Monarchy* in *Europe*. And the Event will be the same, with Regard to the *Spaniards*, if ever he becomes very powerful, in what they now call *Louisiana*; for that would soon make him Master of all the *Spanish Provinces* and *Riches* in the *West Indies*. These Things are far from being remote or improbable Conjectures; but rather, with great Submission, deserve the most serious Attention; for

for that, and that alone, may not only prevent the Growth of so great and formidable a Power, but by proper Expedients raise the *British Empire* to a vast Superiority, amongst all the *Princes and States in Europe and America*, and make our *British Monarchs* sole Arbiters in all the Affairs of *Christendom*.

F I N I S.



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